

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

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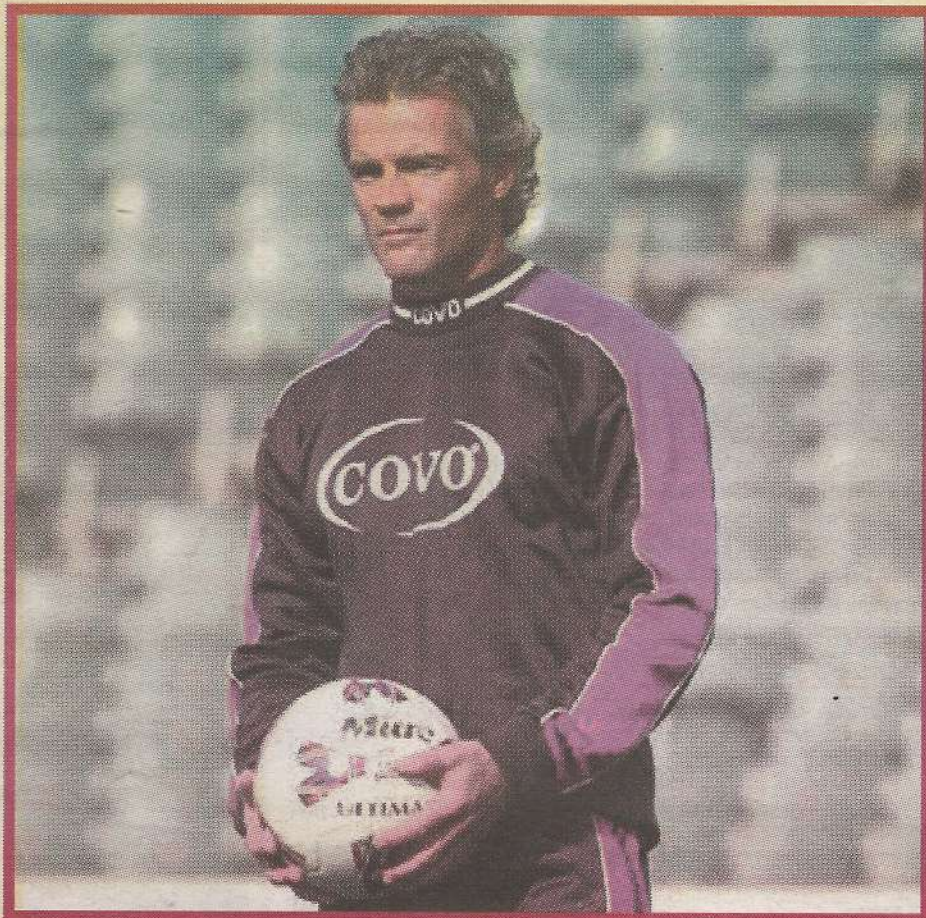


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GST INCLUSIVE



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING COACH GARY PHILLIPS

ABSW dug deep into the world of Champions this week by interviewing rookie National League coach and current Grand-Final winner, Gary Phillips.

The Olympic Sharks mentor talks to ABSW's Editor Mark Stavroulakis about his year at the Cronulla based side, his stand-out players for the season, his personal life and what the future has in stall for the 39-year-old.

Read on Page 3 for the exclusive one on one interview with Gary Phillips.



FERNANDO RECH SCOOPS HIS SECOND AWARD THIS SEASON

Brazilian and current Brisbane Strikers star Fernando Rech picked up his second Player of the Year Award at the recent National League Awards held in Sydney last Wednesday.

ABSW scooped Rech as Player of the Year after the completion of the regular season.

The 28-year-old attacking midfielder polled 175 votes to easily claim the prestigious award from the other nominees of: Joel Porter, Damien Mori, Troy Halpin and Bobby Despotovski.

For greater coverage and pictures on the NSL Awards held at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Sydney read on to Page 5

WORLD CUP FEVER HITS

By Daniel Kuziow

With less than two weeks to the kick-off of the 17th World Cup, all eyes are slowly being fixed in the direction of East Asia as Japan and South Korea prepare to launch the world's biggest sporting spectacle.

Of the 32 teams converging on the Orient about half have announced their final 23 players who will seek to capture sport's ultimate prize. Several more players however face a nervous wait for a potential national team call-up with FIFA giving all teams till the 21st of May (today) to finalise their personnel, to wage pitched-battles on the 31 other teams.

France will be looking to defend its World Crown against perennial finalists Argentina, Italy and Brazil and of these teams look the best relaxed in the lead-up to the opening ceremony. Italy and Brazil are sweating on the fitness of several of their key players, while Argentina are looking to put the internal bickering behind them.

They join darkhorses, Spain, who will look to fulfil their potential this time, while England will be looking at taking it that one step further. Rudi Voller will be hoping to take Germany beyond their quarter-final appearance at France '98.

Korea/Japan will also welcome newcomers Turkey, China and Ecuador into the World Cup stables and after an absence on 18 years Poland returns to the Finals, riding the form of striker Emmanuel Olisadebe.

Of the one month football spectacular ABSW will bring its readers all the colour and vibrancy. Join the columnists of Rale Rasic, Colin Turner, Craig Foster and Peter Katholos as they give their insights into the good, the bad and the controversial of this truly global event. Expert journalists will provide details of every goal in every game from the opening France versus Senegal match all the way to the World Cup Final in Yokohama some 30 days later.



DWIGHT DELIGHTS CROWD AT SYDNEY SOCCER EXPO

Manchester United star striker Dwight Yorke made a guest appearance in the final day of the Sydney Soccer Expo. Yorke was the consummate professional by coaching enthusiastic youngsters and took time out to sign autographs for young and old.

The Trinidad & Tobago international is shown here posing with ABSW Staff Writer Daniel Kuziow (Left) and ABSW Editor Mark Stavroulakis (Right).



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AUSSIES ABROAD BY BINESH MUDALIAR

GLASGOW RANGERS SPECIAL

It was the case of one in and one out at Glasgow Rangers last week. Checking out of Ibrox after five years was **TONY VIDMAR**.

Vidmar told Gers Net, "I'm disappointed I'll have to look elsewhere because I was happy at Rangers and wanted to stay on for a few more years."

"I am disappointed I wasn't given the chance to get a better run."

"How many times do you have to prove yourself before you are given the right to keep your place?"

"But I have to respect the manager's decision when it comes to his line-up and am leaving on good terms."

"I had a great time in my five years at Ibrox and will always have strong feelings for the club and supporters."

Vidmar is being courted by West Ham United, Bolton Wanderers and Middlesbrough.

Arriving at Rangers on a Bosman free transfer from Division One club Wolverhampton Wanderers was **KEVIN MUSCAT**. The rugged defender was immediately supported by fellow Aussie **CRAIG MOORE** on his rugged reputation.

Oz said to Gers Net, "I've known Musky from the Under-20s national team right through to the seniors. We go back 10 years and I am delighted he is coming to Ibrox."

"He's a fierce competitor but no matter what people have said he is fair. He will relish playing here and will be a great addition to the squad."

"The France game turned into a bit of a grudge match because we had beaten them in the Confederations Cup and the friendly came three or four months after that. So they were

out to try to turn it round."

"There was a spitting incident and a few things that made the match get a bit out of hand. Musky's a hard but fair player but he has never been sent off while playing for Australia."

"He has been in England for five or six years and been sent off three times, one of those for handball and another for shirt-pulling. There has been only one bad offence - throwing an elbow."

"So his record is nowhere near as bad as has been made out."

"The reputation comes from what is written and said, which is mostly out of Kevin's control."

"We've played in many a big game with the national team and he has always kept his head so I don't think he'll have any problems dealing with an Old Firm match."

"I spoke to Kev four days

ago, told him to enjoy his holiday and that I'd see him next season."

"Musky fits in with what Rangers are trying to do. He's only 28 so he's not coming in at the end of his career."

Meantime, Moore, who returned from a three-month knee injury to star in Rangers' 3-2 win against Celtic in the Scottish FA Cup final, will holiday in Australia and Europe before returning to pre-season training a week or two before the rest of the squad to get a head start.

Wolves MAD, a supporter run website has spoken on behalf of Wolves' fans and are less than impressed with Muscat's pre-contract agreement with Rangers. The site revealed that Rangers' manager Alex McLeish came to watch Muscat play in the televised game between Portsmouth and Wolves.

Pics of the Week



Craig Moore celebrating Glasgow Rangers' Scottish FA Cup win.



Frank Juric: Runners-up medal with Bayer Leverkusen against Real Madrid.



Joel Porter: Off to Racing Genk.



Ivan Ergic (top) and Scott Chipperfield: League and Cup winners in Switzerland with Basel.



Melbourne Knights striker **JOEL PORTER** has secured a two-week trial with Belgian champions, Racing Genk.

TONY POPOVIC has been selected in a Crystal Palace squad to tour Spain for a post-season tournament, starting with a game against Sweden's Malmo on 19 May.



Tony Popovic: Playing in Spain.

Charlton Athletic have released **SASA ILIC** following

"I have still got two years left on my contract and hopefully

commence Okon's next step in European football and has told

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his contract expiration. Goalkeeper Ilic, who has been linked with a move to Portsmouth, was given the boot along with Eddie Youds, Charlie MacDonald and Lee Snodin.

Despite a reported 18 million pound bid by Inter Milan for **HARRY KEWELL** and fiancée Cherie Murphy telling the press that Harry is "desperate to play in Italy", the Aussie superstar has told Leeds Teamtalk, "I am hoping to stay at Leeds, I will be wearing the white shirt next year."

I'll be here for those two years."

Bad news for two other clubs continually linked with Kewell, namely, AS Roma and Liverpool.

Media reports from Europe suggest that officials from Serie A club Perugia travelled to

AAP that while a multiple season contract with Watford is a high priority, a move back to Italy is also on the cards.

Former Adelaide City forward **LOUIS BRAIN** has returned from trials at Dundee.

Former Canterbury-Marrickville goalkeeper **JOSE BELLO AMIGO** has signed a new four-year deal with Racing Club de Ferrol in Spain's second division.

Ex-St George Saints left-back **MATT GALEA** will trial for NSL contract following a league winning season in Malta with Hamrun Spartans. Galea is a Malta under 21 representative.



Jose Bello Amigo: Destined to play in Spain's Primera Liga.

SOCCER TRIVIA

Which team won this season's Champions' League?
Email answers (and contact details) to
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The first two correct answers randomly drawn will win a prize.
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Holland during the week to finalise the transfer of **ZELJKO KALAC** from Roda JC Kerkrade. Kalac, who played 116 games in four seasons with Roda, said to Sporting Life, "We played against a club from Serie C and I played very, very well."

"Their current first keeper (Colombian Oscar Cordoba) has left the club, so in principal I will play next season in one of the strongest competitions in the world."

PAUL OKON's manager Leo Karis will head to Europe to

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GARY PHILLIPS: "OUR FINAL'S WIN HASN'T SUNK IN YET"

By Mark Stavroulakis

Winning a Championship in your first season at a National League club isn't a bad record for Olympic Sharks coach Gary Phillips.

The 39-year-old former Sydney Olympic great was at hand this season to gift the historical Olympic Sharks their first silverware in 12 years.

The side's one-nil win over Minor Premiers Perth Glory at Subiaco Oval was a result most soccer fans thought would not happen.

The 'Sydneyiders' had their backs against the wall with injuries and suspensions plaguing the Cronulla based side, the pendulum before the match had swung the Glory's way.

What a joyous day it ended for Phillips and his courageous side as the Sharks took it to the Glory and won the Championship.

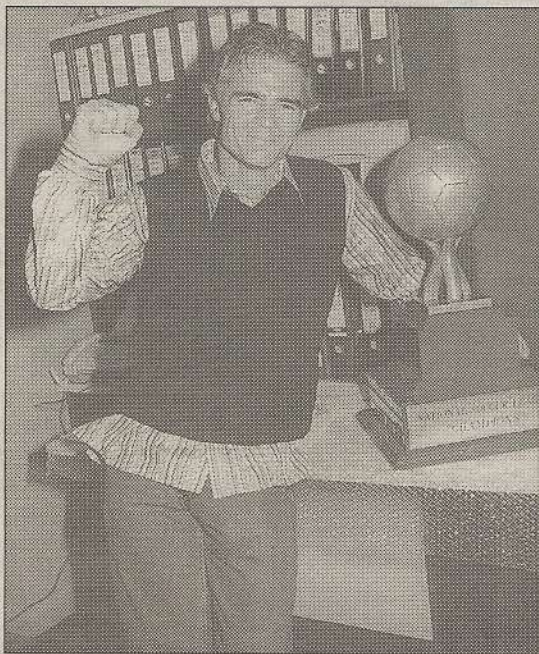
"To tell you the truth it still hasn't sunk in yet. I think I'll need a few weeks to recover, clear my head and I'm sure it will all settle in. Having gone to over ten functions since our win in Perth has been amazing, certainly a first in my career," said Phillips.

The team this season outshone many clubs with an attacking style of football. Another factor was the youth department, as the Sharks fielded the youngest team in the National League (average age 23.14).

"There was a lot of quality in the team this season, they were young and full of enthusiasm. Their desire to win matches, especially in the latter stages of the competition was what pulled the side through to the finals. It was tough for me at first to settle the squad as I came in as coach a week before the league started. As weeks went by, things seemed to get better and better and I was learning a lot from the players themselves. Overall I think the players were disappointed at the fact they didn't finish in the top 2

problem was scoring, we had lost Pablo Cardozo at the start of the season then Nicky Carle to French club Troyes. Hitting the back of the net was tough but with the inclusion of Ante Milicic, I'm sure the name speaks for itself, he did really well this season even though

at the start of the season. Having a tight budget, John pulled through well and was unfortunate not to do one better in reaching the Finals. As for Ian, he really pulled Newcastle together. Having bought some great players in the off-season, he guided the



Phillips shown posing with the Grand Final trophy.

injury plagued him during the end of the competition."

Many critics were amazed at the recent National League Awards that Gary Phillips' name was not among the three named for the prestigious honor. Mich d'Avray, John Kosmina, and the eventual winner Ian Crook were the trio that had been picked from fellow coaches in the National League.

"It was tough in a way as many coaches didn't see the hurdles I encountered during the season. Balancing a squad that looked different every week due to injuries and suspensions was always a headache. The club did one better than last season and finished 3rd which was a credit to the boys. One thing's for sure I wouldn't swap a Championship medal for anything else. I thought all three coaches elected did well for their respective clubs. Mich

side well and did wonders for the city on and off the pitch."

With the National League season coming to an end, the next agenda on the Australian soccer calendar is the Oceania Nations Cup in New Zealand. Socceroo coach Frank Farina has his work cut out selecting players for his new squad, Phillips believes that at least 8 players from the Sharks look set to play in the green and gold.

"Don't be surprised if at least 8 players get selected for Australia from the Sharks at the up and coming Nations Cup. Ante Milicic, Ante Juric, Wayne Shroj, Jade North, Greg Owens, Troy Halpin, Tommy Pondeljask and Andy Packer will all be in the running for a final spot in the side. All have played really well this season and all have the flair to continue playing their football on an international scale."

One huge issue being talked

"I do have another year left on my contract and I would love to continue my relationship with the Sharks. I know also though that if new owners do take the club then there will possibly be an overhaul of players and staff, as they will employ whoever they want. In this game of football nothing is certain but I'd like to think that I'm around for next season. I know at this stage I do need a well earned break, my wife is expecting a baby girl in six weeks so I still have a family to support. That means that whatever happens, I will want to be associated with football in anyway. There will be a big meeting in the next few weeks determining the future of the club."

It is evident that in the current crop of Olympic players, at least 10-12 players are coming off contract for the New Year. They are; Troy Halpin, Ante Juric, Steve Laybutt, Paul Kohler, Andrew Packer, Tom Pondeljask, Brett Hughes and Peter Zorbas. The departure of Lindsay Wilson to Dutch club PSV Eindhoven and Japanese import and fan favourite Hiroyuki Ishida wanting an overseas move, the club will be in full force snapping up as many Championship winning stars for another few years.

"We have a number of players coming off contract but we are in negotiations of signing the majority of the lads up for

next season. It would be foolish for any player to move onto another National League club as the Sharks have a great stable at the moment. The support is top notch, the boys are getting paid well also the Sutherland area where most of

The National League will go through a different transition next season as teams will play each other three times in a 3 round format. Yet to be formally announced, Gary believes that it would benefit soccer in Australia.

see, the better. It will in turn make the coach's job a little harder with this new system. Having more rounds means a bigger squad is needed, but due to many clubs facing financial problems, it will be hard obtaining 25 quality players. This is where the youth development of the club kicks in, the better the youth policy is, the more chance better players turn out for their respective clubs next season."

Finally, a parade was given to the Olympic Shark players and staff last Monday night at Shark headquarters in Cronulla. The squad was greeted by at least 6000 mad Olympic supporters who right throughout the season, supported the team well.

"Last Monday night was something I will never forget as a coach. It was a wonderful experience seeing so much joy in people's eyes. Having fathers and sons coming up to me saying that this win was as good as our last Final victory in '90 was amazing. It was a first for any club as I won the Final as a player and now winning it as a coach was a dream come true. Overall the supporters have been great all year and the victory in Perth was a reward to them, hopefully, depending on the club and my future, I will be back next season guiding the squad for the double", ended Phillips.



Phillips and son Boston showing off the silverware.

players are situated in is a lovely area to live in. At the end of the day in my opinion, it's not all about the dollars, it's about the success and I know there's plenty of it at the Sharks".

"I'm a fan of the 3 round system as I knew as a player, I always loved to play a game. Now the players have the pleasure of playing 12 more matches, the fans will also take it well as the more games they



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A complete job description is available on the NSW Soccer Federation's website www.soccernsw.com.au, or by contacting Lindal Whitton or Mandy Brinnand on (02) 9629 1800.

Applications close Wednesday 22 May 2002

Written Applications should be clearly marked 'CONFIDENTIAL' and forwarded to Mr Robert Waddell CEO, New South Wales Soccer Federation P.O. Box 6146, Baulkham Hills Business Centre, NSW 2153.



Sharks players celebrate at Toyota Park the night after their Grand Final triumph.

and it was also evident that throughout the year the squad had no luck. Week after week I had suspensions and injuries, it was a tough time but we pulled through. One thing's for sure, we did have the back up when needed, our team stretched far beyond the eleven players people saw on the pitch. Our main

did a fantastic job at Perth having finished 12 points ahead of their nearest rivals Newcastle, the statistics said it all. Also fielding so many big name players and having them under control was a credit to Mich. eKossie' had a great year also, considering the fact that they pulled the plug on the Strikers

about in almost every bar or cafe in Sydney is whether the Olympic Sharks will be taken over by English Premier League side, Leeds United. Rumor has it that former AIS coach Ron Smith could return to Australia and coach the Sharks if Leeds officially take over.

SPIRIT COACHING POSITION TO BE DECIDED SOON WHILE CARDOZO ON THE MOVE?

By Mark Stavroulakis

Mick Hickman will sit down with Northern Spirit officials in the next few weeks to decide his fate with the club.

Both Hickman and Assistant Coach John Paul deMarigny have indicated that they would like to stay at the Spirit, however the final decision will be brought out by the Northern Spirit Board of Directors.

A few names have entered the forum as possible replacements for Hickman,

should he not continue his position at the club.

Ex-Cardiff and Scotsman Stuart Munro is believed to have shown interest while former Stallions coach Lee Sterrey is also another possible candidate.

Meanwhile on the player front, Spirit fan favourite Pablo Cardozo could be on the move next season.

Due to Spirit's tight financial budget for next season,

players like Cardozo will expect a pay cut in their wages.



Pablo Cardozo: Northern Spirit star could be on the move?

Former club Olympic Sharks and Parramatta Power have shown a keen interest in the silky front-man who is yet to taste finals success in his career so far.

No doubt the Spirit will be running over-time in keeping the Australian international at Spirit Oval but rest assured, Cardozo will be a player in demand should he part with the Glasgow Rangers backed side.

Alex Tobin:

"I want to Play on"

By Binesh Mudaliar

Former Socceroo captain Alex Tobin, despite being released by Parramatta Power is keen to continue his glittering career in the National Soccer League. Speaking exclusively to ABSW, 36 year-old Tobin said, "I am very keen to keep playing, preferably with a Sydney club."

"In the season just past, I played almost every game for Parramatta Power and I was happy with my form and fitness, so there are no concerns on that front."

"At this stage of my career, I am not looking any further than next season, but I have not ruled out the possibility of playing on in season 2003/2004."

With rumours circulating of a less than perfect departure from the Power, Tobin is quick to douse any rumours of ill feeling between himself and the Parramatta Stadium outfit. "Basically, my contract with the Power came to an end and I wasn't in (coach) Nick Theodorakopoulos' plans for next season."



The great Alex Tobin hopes to play on in next season's NSL.

As a free agent, the question of a return to Adelaide City was posed to Tobin. "The likelihood of me returning to Adelaide is highly unlikely for a number of reasons. I have a life in Sydney and my kids are in school there so my preference would be to play for a Sydney club."

If indeed next season is Tobin's last, the reliable stopper is keen to stay involved in the sport. "Tobin continued by saying, "I would like to remain in the sport in any number of capacities. At the moment, I am doing some coaching at Westfields Sports High and enjoy the role of educating elite soccer players."

"I also have the architecture profession that could return to, but it's not something that I could go back as easily as I would like."

One of Tobin's other major roles in the sport of soccer in this country is serving as the President of the Professional Footballers' Association and one of the key matters on his PFA agenda is dealing with Soccer Australia's stance of no match payments for the Socceroos during this year's Oceania Cup. Tobin said, "It's a very difficult situation and it's an issue which the PFA's Chief Executive Officer Brendan Schwab is currently working through."

"My personal thoughts are that while to play for your country is one of the greatest honours there is, asking the players to pay their own way puts the whole sport of soccer in Australia in a difficult situation."

"It's hopefully a matter that will be sorted out swiftly."

And finally to a topic that is on the lips of all NSL fans, the restructure of the league. Next season will be a 13-team season but thereafter, the talk is of either a 12 or 14-team competition. While in favour of NSL restructure, Tobin believes that something more concrete needs to be done than chopping and changing teams. "I heartily endorse reform but I feel that prior reform has been on an ad hoc basis rather than basic changes to improve the league."

So, with just a little luck, one of Australia's greatest soccer players will be on show for at least one more season and hopefully involved in the sport for many more years to come.

TARKA REFLECTS ON DEBUT SEASON

By Richard Kreider

Rookie defender David Tarka has had a sparkling debut season for Perth Glory. One that might have been beyond his expectations but one that came ever so close to being capped off with a National Soccer League Championship.

"It's been a tremendous season for the club and to be a part of a grand final in my first season is huge," said Tarka.

"I would have loved to have achieved everything in my first season but there are still plenty more seasons in me. It is disappointing however, for the older players, since it meant more to them."

Tarka made his NSL debut last October as an 81st minute substitute in round four against the Football Kingz. His composed manner together with no-nonsense yet tidy tackling and aerial ascendancy has since rewarded the tall left-footed stopper with another 15 appearances, including playing in the last nine straight.



David Tarka: Young star had a great year at the Glory.

"I knew it was going to be hard to break into the side because we already had a great backline in Craig Deans and Jamie Harnwell," said the former AIS and National Schoolboy representative. "But Mich (d'Avray) said to me, when the opportunity comes along he'll put me in. And when it did come along I took the opportunity with both hands," said Tarka, who turned 19 in February.

He first played in a left-winger role as a 15-16-year old for his local junior club Cockburn City before a growth burn saw him drop into a defenders position. There, he excelled immediately and was soon at the Australian Institute of Sport. He later received a release to play for the Glory where he has since flourished at almost light-speed.

And just like any talented athlete, Tarka has expressed a strong desire to try his luck overseas after one more season of "regular starting football" as well as one day receive the ultimate honour of wearing the green and gold of the Socceroos.

"To play for Australia is my goal. It means everything," ended Tarka.



DESPOTOVSKI WINS BACK TO BACK MGP AWARD

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory striker Bobby Despotovski has been voted the club's Most Glorious Player for the second year running.

The awards were presented at a

gala dinner at the Burswood Resort Casino.

Despotovski's outstanding season saw him score 14 goals and form a highly-productive partnership in Glory's frontline with the National Soccer League's all-time champion netbuster Damian Mori. Despotovski also cap-

tained the side through its finals campaign.

A member of the original 1996/97 Perth Glory squad, Despotovski is recognised as one of the club's finest ever players.

His efforts this season could be also rewarded with selection in Frank Farina's Socceroo selection for the 2002.

Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) Nations Cup tournament to be held in Auckland, New Zealand during 5-14 July 2002.

Runner-up in the MGP Award was another OFC candidate Mori, with Brazilian midfielder Edgar Junior third.

Goalkeeper Jason Petkovic was voted Quit Coaches' Player of the Year, defender Jamie Harnwell took out the Sony Clubman of the Year Award and defender Matt Horsley was named Harvey Fresh Supporters' Player of the Year.

Because of the financial constraints by the NSL Premiers, a more detailed report was not possible owing to a restriction in media invitations.



Bobby Despotovski: Voted Perth's most glorious player.

SOUTH MELBOURNE ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN

By Bert van Bedaf

South Melbourne's new chairman Peter Mitrakas wasted no time in stamping his authority on the job. In quick succession last week, he announced his preferences, saying he was for sharing Bob Jane Stadium with a prominent sporting club and against the 39-round national league season.

"The stadium is expensive to run and we would take a look at partners. We would be happy to talk with (cross-town rivals) Melbourne Knights, but there's also been an interest from Melbourne Storm and rugby league could be an option," Mitrakas said.

The NSL commissioners' astounding decision to stick with 13 clubs (if that's indeed the outcome at the start of the season) and hold 39 rounds is as puzzling as a Nostradamus pronouncement.

The commissioners decided last week to start the competition in September and finish in June, with mid-week games scheduled to cope with the volume. There's also a five-week finals campaign to determine to eventual national champion.

Mitrakas doubted whether the NSL clubs would agree with the plans. "I just wonder how much thought has gone into this. For a start, who is going to pay for the extra flights," Mitrakas asked.

"Would Soccer Australia pay for it, or the league, or the club? South Melbourne certainly would not be able to afford the extra costs," he said.

With the Football Kings doubtful and new clubs from Adelaide, Brisbane and Melbourne vying for a franchise, it seems much too early to close in on a final league number (12, 13 or 14) and the number of rounds.

Mitrakas was elected South Melbourne's new president after the retirement of outgoing president George Vasilopoulos a fortnight ago.

Mitrakas and senior Vice-President Jim Karakoussis contested the position at last week's board meeting, but the election of Mitrakas came as no surprise. With the board

member votes already in his favour, Mitrakas virtually predicted his own appointment several weeks ago.

Mitrakas, 45, has been club chairman since 1989, the same year Vasilopoulos became president. Karakoussis congratulated Mitrakas and said he was looking forward to working with him.

"Peter (Mitrakas) has my full support and I look forward to working with him, and with the rest of the directors, guiding South Melbourne to further success," Karakoussis said.

Mitrakas said the club would shortly be announcing new plans for the future.

"Soccer is going through a transitional peri-

od and all clubs, including ours need the support of their members, supporters and business partners.

We will be shortly releasing a number of strategies which express our future plans", Mitrakas said.

In another coup, South Melbourne's vice-captain Steve Panopoulos is one of seven South players earmarked for a place in Frank Farina's home-based Socceroos squad to contest the Oceania Cup in July 5-15. The others are Petkovic, South captain Paul Trimoli, Mehmet Durakovic, Fausto De Amicis, Patrick Kisorbo and Con Boutsianis.

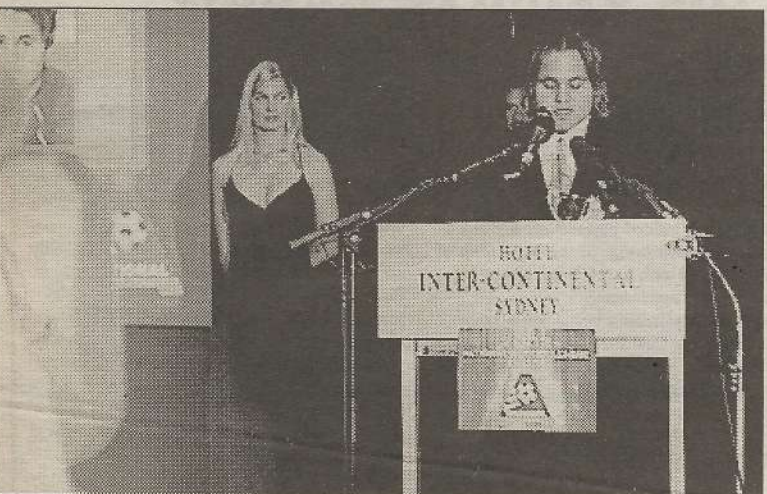
NATIONAL LEAGUE AWARDS 2001/2002



The 'Players' Player of the Year' award, The Warren Medal, was taken out by the Brisbane Strikers' Brazilian linkman, Fernando Rech. However Rech had flown to Brazil and thus was unable to attend the Awards function staged last Wednesday at Sydney's Hotel Inter-Continental.



The NSL's 'Goalkeeper Of The Year' trophy was gloved for a record third time by South Melbourne's outstanding custodian, Michael Petkovic.



John Majurovski from Newcastle United, took out the NSL's 'Northern Division Youth League Player Of The Year' trophy.



The NSL's 'Referee Of The Year' trophy was snared by the 28-year-old Mark Shield. The Queensland 'whistler' is the youngest to have scored this prestigious award and later this month will officiate in the coming World Cup Finals at Japan/Korea.

NATIONAL LEAGUE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Brisbane Strikers Brazilian import Fernando Rech is the 2001-2002 Johnny Warren Medal Player of the Year, after an outstanding season with Brisbane Strikers.

This award is the second this season for Rech following his crowning as ABSW Player of the Year some five weeks ago.

Voted for by the players, Rech finished well ahead of nearest challengers Perth Glory's Damian Mori and Melbourne Knights Joel Porter.

Rech was the inspiration behind Brisbane's surprising successful season, where they finished fourth on the league table. Not even the most ardent Brisbane supporter would have considered them a top-six contender when the season kicked off, but inspired by Rech's attacking play, they confounded the critic's all season and deservedly won a finals spot.

The Brazilian finished with 175 votes, while Mori was next on 114 and then Porter with 113 points. Perth's Bobby Despotovski was fourth with 104 and then followed by Olympic Sharks playmaker Troy Halpin with 73 votes.

Unfortunately, Fernando could not accept his award, as he returned to Brazil soon after Brisbane's finals campaign finished.

Newcastle United's Joe Schirripa surprisingly won a closely fought contest won for the most outstanding Under 21 Player of the Year, with Massimo Murodcca of South Melbourne and Jade North of champions the Olympic Sharks.

Five votes separated all three players with Schirripa finishing on 137 votes, one ahead of Murodcca and with North a further four votes behind.

In a good night for the Novocastrians, Crook was named Coach of the Year, two votes ahead Perth's Mich d'Avray, with Brisbane's John Kosmina a further three votes behind. Gary Phillips of the Olympic Sharks did not even get a mention, despite leading his team to the championship in his first year at the club.

South Melbourne's Michael Petkovic was a clear winner in the Goalkeeper of the Year Award, finishing ahead of his brother Jason (Perth) and Olympic's Championship winning Captain Clint Bolton.

Mori's lethal attacking ability helped him secure the Qantas Top Goalscorer of the Year, his fifth such award. Mori finished with 17 goals, two ahead of Olympic's Ante Milicic on 15.

In the major Youth League awards, John Majurovski from Newcastle won the Northern Division Player of the Year, while South Melbourne's Stephen Pace picked up the Southern Division award.

2002 World Cup bound Mark Shield won the Admiral Referee of the Year award, while Ben Williams (no relation to BIG BROTHER winner last year) was named the Assistant Referee of the Year.

Brisbane Strikers picked up the Fair Play award.



Newcastle United's rookie NSL boss, Ian Crook, snared the 'Coach Of The Year' award. The former Tottenham Spurs player in his first season as senior coach, lifted for the first time his Novocastrian side to finish second in the League ladder.



The NSL's 'Under 21s Player Of The Year' was scored by Newcastle United's Joseph Schirripa who edged out South Melbourne's midfielder/striker, Massimo Murodcca by a single vote.



Stephen Pace from South Melbourne won the NSL's 'Southern Division Youth League Player Of The Year' award.



The NSL 2001/2002 Champions. The Olympic Sharks.

The Dream That Died

Spirit

Once proud Northern Spirit is continuing to fall in to the depths of despair during the off season and things look to be hard on the once proud North Shore club. News of staffing departures has been followed up by strong rumours that players are following them out the door and other star players are becoming disillusioned with the club and not being silent about it around town.

From the staff David Mason and Phil Moss's departures have been well advertised. Both may be offered part time positions at the beginning of the new season but for the moment their permanent contracts have ended. Club secretary Danielle Kinsey, a member of staff from the club's inception, and the person most responsible for the smooth running of game days, is leaving to further career opportunities. Rob Wheatley has left the board. Add to this the persistent rumour that Colin Mitchell is about to return home to another position at Rangers and you have a very empty Northern Spirit office. Actually staff turn over at the Spirit office has been very high when you look at the departure lounge, with the likes of Micky Brock, Emmanuel Zammit, Remo Nogerotto, Gary Pearce, Nick Armitage, Melissa Down, Kerrie Chikarovski, and Rene Licarta all going (amongst others).

In terms of coaching staff as well as Moss gone founding goal keeping Coach Steve Watson is rumoured to have gone and there has to be a cloud over Jean Paul DeMarigny's future with his position becoming part time only. Mick Hickman, if he and the club agree to terms to stay, could be fairly lonely on the bench!

The biggest impact on whoever the coach will be is on the playing front. Rumours persisting in soccer circles are that Adrian Cervinski, Troy Cranney, Lupce Acevski, and Rob Trajkovski have been let go by the club, although all were under contract next season.

Add to this those out of contract, the likes of Foster and Enes, are not being considered for next season. It has also been suggested in some quarters Dick Advocaat was so displeased with the level of the game here that when he got home he suggested the likes of Stephen Dobbie not return to Australia because it would be detrimental to their own game.

Also with Spirit not knowing what their

budget is for next years those out of contract the club would be interested in can not be resigned, so youngsters like the Griffiths brothers are being chased by other clubs (not that far up the road from North Sydney). The club have had initial talks with some players from around the league, including one former Socceroo, but surely all is in limbo until full budgetary details are arrived at back in Glasgow.

The player turnover at Spirit has been large over the few years of their history with the likes of Mendez, Marusic, Crook, Slater, Arnold, Moss, Bingley, Langdon, Perinich, Zane, Lyons, Purdue, Cunico, Stubbs-Mills, Wearne, Rudan, Bilokapic, Burgess, Perosh, P Foster, Blazincic, S Cranney, Casserly, Poric, Berti, Snyder, Bosnar, Moriera and Watkins gone. Some of these players (some fans would say most) may not have played well for Spirit but it is a lot of change for any sort of team spirit / club history to be successfully developed. That is four seasons and 29 players who have played first team football through the exit door without even listing the youth players, many of whom left for Newcastle at the start of last season. Yet the club have failed to learn and now are going through wholesale changes once more it seems.

Of course the person who will carry the can for any lack of playing power next season will be the coach, and that will be unfair. You won't see the board resign if the team is



Mick Hickman: Question marks whether or not the Northern Spirit Coach will be at North Sydney Oval next year.

not winning, instead they will sack the coach. That does not matter who is in charge, whether it be Mick Hickman, or a replacement coach handpicked by Spirit, or one of the more unscrupulous characters around town sniffing around for a job that has not been advertised as being vacant. It seems strange for a Spirit board to blame the coach too much because when you look at Spirit you look at a club that has had its history of others bar the coach being the ones choosing the players who are signed up.

Spirit fans have left the club in droves over the past two years and news of this sort will in no way bring the people back. There are so many little things that will not help get crowds back, starting from when supporter coordinator Micky Brock was let go after that first great season. With David Mason going to part time one wonders if the website he so studiously helped maintain will be updated next season as regularly. This season there was the drama with the program with the club taking action against the original suppliers of the program and in the end the club going with a few pages from another publication. The question is will Soccer Australia accept this as an adequate program deal for next season? All these things will not help bring the fans along.

Overall Northern Spirit is a club that is reassessing where they are going. Hopefully things will turn around. Robbie Slater has said in the past that Spirit is picked on like no other club, but I suggest it is treated like all other clubs in the NSL with some good things being praised and other bad things being criticised.

Hopefully for the game north of the harbour Spirit will turn things around. The club are no longer seeking to buy a whole side but are looking at a three-year or so plan of developing their junior ranks.

With their strong alliances with Manly and Hornsby Gladesville this may well work, they do have nine junior international players on their books, but youngsters can't be kept if you don't have a budget.

Glasgow has to send a budget to North Sydney ASAP for the club to not fall backwards. Hopefully the coach, whomever that is, will get the support from the board to get the team back playing good football and qualifying for the finals for the second time. I for one miss the drama that the entry of Spirit brought into the league in that first year.

Then fans from other clubs in town loved the competition from Spirit fans, these days those opposition fans could be feeling just a little bit sorry for the Spirit supporters.

FRASER JUMPS ON BOARD THE PARRAMATTA POWER EXPRESS



By Mark Stavroulakis

Former 1974 Australian goalkeeper great Jim Fraser has moved on from the Championship winning Olympic Sharks and has signed a 2-year-deal with the new and improved Parramatta Power side.

The well-known goalkeeper coach spent two solid seasons at the Sharks where he developed a good relationship with the players.

"Both my seasons at Olympic were great, the squad was young and full of enthusiasm, it was a pleasure to be involved with such a side. Also having taught Clint Bolton for two seasons was brilliant. Overall my time at the Sharks was top notch I wish the boys well for their future careers."

Asked about Olympic's fairytale Grand Final win Fraser was adamant in saying "I knew the boys had it in them to win it, they had more character and determination to take the game to the Glory and they did just that".

'Poppa' looked towards the future, and that future was with Parramatta Power.

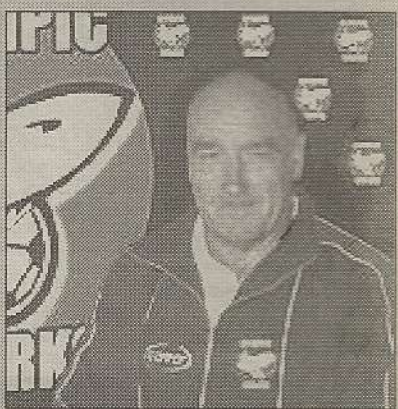
Coached by former Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos, Fraser saw more potential to express his own ideas into the club.

"The Power have given me the chance to show case my ideas and set-up a better program for the goalkeepers at the club. One thing, which lured me to the Power also, was the fact that I will be co-Assistant coach alongside Manfred Schaefer. I am really looking forward to my new role at the club

and hope we can establish a top side to go all the way next season. The club itself has two more years to prove to people that it is a club worthy of being in the National League so there's a bit of pressure on all of us. Apart from the football, we at the Power must also get 'bums on seats', which will be essential for the survival of the club".

Asked about who have been the best keepers he's taught, Fraser added, "Clint Bolton is a stand-out keeper. He is unbelievable in the air and is a very positive young man. It was a joy to coach Clint; the Sharks were very lucky to have him.

There's also another Australian goalkeeper who is currently playing his football in the Spanish 2nd Division. Jose Bello-Amigo (former Canterbury Marrickville keeper) has signed a 4-year-deal with his new club. Remember this name as I think he will go all the way," ended Fraser.



Jim Fraser: Parramatta Power's new co-Assistant and Goalkeeper Coach.

THE OLYMPIC SHARKS — Year in review

By Daniel Kuziow

The Olympic Sharks meteoric rise to National Soccer League champions last week has indeed capped off a remarkable year for a team that at the beginning of the year started with a new logo, a new location and a new approach.

One thing was to remain the same however through the entire club; the characteristic passion and commitment weened from the traditions of the Sydney Olympic Soccer Club.

In his first year as a National League coach, Gary Phillips brought the coveted NSL title back to the Sydney-based club after an absence of 12 years, when Perth Glory were defeated 1-0 in front of their own 42 000 partisan crowd. Ironically the Sharks first title those 12 years ago was captured on the back of a team containing none other than Gary Phillips himself.

However at the beginning of the season, the missing 'Phillips-link' was not even on the cards of the Sharks. Cross-town coach of Sydney United, Branko Culina was beginning the second year of a two-year coaching contract at the club and only a re-direction by management secured the services of one of Olympic's favourite sons as head coach.

Coupled with the sudden, change in coaching staff, the Sharks directors undertook a radical plan of taking national league soccer into the heart of Sydney's south. Sutherland, a region rich in local talent was to be exploited by the club as a means of generating new support for the newly revamped Greek club. Yet the marriage of the new venue and the new name did not though yield the immediate results that had been anticipated and average crowd numbers did little in promoting the quality of play displayed by the Olympic Sharks.

In mid-season, Olympic said farewell to one of their favourite sons when Nick Carle was lost to the adventures of European professionalism. French club Troyes had agreed to terms with the club and

Carle's three-year adventure with the Championship club left many people wondering if Australia would lose yet another prodigious talent that had stamped his authority over the NSL.

This loss was quickly dispelled when Ante Milicic was brought from Culina's Sydney United in a near record deal. The mid-season transfer of \$110 000 was the second highest in NSL eclipsed only by Perth Glory's record for Brad Maloney. Milicic scored on his debut against the Northern Spirit and all signs were good that the money was well spent.

At the end of the regular season the Sharks had secured a top three finish and in the first round of the final's campaign squared off against finals specialists the Melbourne Knights. On a wind-swept Sunday night in the second leg of the elimination finals, Sutherland's Toyota Park was illuminated by an outstanding attacking display, where the hungry Sharks devoured the iron-heavy Knights six goals to two.

The flavour of elimination was to continue for another two matches. First at Marconi Stadium, the resurgent South Melbourne team was clinically dispatched into the off-season by a well-drilled Sharks outfit, then Newcastle United were beaten 1-nil in a dogged encounter before 17,000 die-hard United supporters hoping to celebrate their first grand final appearance.

Making their win more fitting were the large contingent of players restricted by chronic injuries that rallied behind the cause of coach and club. Play maker Troy Halpin had been dogged by a groin injury for much of the latter part of the season and only after a double tear of the muscle in the match against Newcastle did he surrender his position within the team.

Grand Final 2002 became the crowning hour for the Olympic Sharks with their single goal victory over the more-fancied Perth Glory side. While most of the crowd had indeed left by the time Clint Bolton walked up to receive the trophy, the Sharks had already secured something that no action could take away. A championship won on a character of player rarely seen these days in the game of soccer.



Clint Bolton: Captained the Sharks to the Championship.

Skoko and Didulica celebrate championships in Europe

By Roy Hay

It is not every day that two Geelong boys get the chance to celebrate winning their national league championships in two separate European countries, but that is what has happened to Josip Skoko and Joey Didulica this season.

Skoko has captained Racing Club Genk to the Belgian title and signed a new five-year contract with the club. This follows a win in the Belgian Cup last season. Genk has a very young team and Skoko's influence has been a key element in the nail-biting battle with Club Brugge which went right down to the last round of the season.

Didulica made his breakthrough into the Ajax Amsterdam first team in Holland this season and played in several critical matches as the club completed a league and cup double.

New coach, the legendary Ronald Koeman, who replaced Co Adriaanse half way through the season, gave the Geelong youngster his break and saw him keep a series of clean sheets.

Though veteran keeper Fred Grim retained the number one jersey till the end of the campaign, he is retiring to become a goalkeeping coach. Next season Didulica will have to fight Bogdan Lobont for the position when Lobont returns from a loan spell.

Victory means automatic inclusion in the Champions League next season for Genk and Ajax, which should ensure an even higher profile for two of the brightest products of the Victorian Soccer Federation. Skoko and Didulica have a chance to become household names on



Josip Skoko: Captained Racing Club Genk to a Belgian title.

the stage of the most competitive and highest profile club tournament in the world.

Wind the clock back a few years and you will find Skoko winning the Victorian Player of the Year award while at North Geelong. From there Skoko went straight to Hajduk Split in Croatia, where he became playmaker and skipper in his four-year stint. His next move was to Genk.

Meantime he picked up Australian Caps at youth and senior level. He was part of both Terry Venables and Frank Farina's squads that came so close to qualifying for the World Cup in 1998 and 2002.

Didulica kept goal for North, winning goalkeeper of the year, before joining the Melbourne Knights, and it was while he was there that he was selected for the Olyroos and though a stress fracture in his shin was to rule him out of Sydney 2000, he had done enough in the lead-up matches to convince Dutch giant Ajax to offer him a contract.

Josip Skoko: Has Captained Racing Club Genk to the Belgian title this season.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

SASI DEVELOPS TASTE FOR TRAVEL

"Play soccer football and see the world." That catch phrase was never more appropriate than in this space age era with the New South Wales Institute of Sport under 15/16 squad recently making an eight-match tour of Holland, Belgium and Germany.

Next week (Tuesday, May 28) the South Australian Institute of Sport under 17/16/15/14 squad will fly out of Adelaide bound for action in England, Italy and Malaysia.

Former Australian international and West Adelaide Sharks goalkeeper Martyn Crook, now head SASI coach, will guide his charges against Darlington, Middlesbrough and Nottingham College before lining up for the Cavese de Terini Tournament in Italy.

The latter series will be played next month when the South Aussies will tackle group opponents, Cavese, Napoli, and Cheivo Verona.

Lurking in the other half of the tournament draw will be Roma, Salernitana, Nocerina and Rappi F.I.G.C.

The SASI touring party comprises Under 17: Michael Ball, Michele Lastella (captain), Anthony Ivanov, Josh Woods, Frank Mucara, Apostoli Giamarelos.

Under 16: Michael Daloisio, Yianni Sarris, Keegan Nash (vice-captain), Matthew Gaston, Matthew Muscroft, John DeFrancesco, Oliver Totani, Matthew Deegan, Michael Matricciani, Tony Hatzis, Brett Selga, Julian Toreassan.



Ivan Karlovic: Captained the SASI squad in '98.

Scott Tunbridge: The current Force striker was awarded Players Player of the Year at SASI in '99.

Under 15: David Thornton, Shane Tobias, Sam Gounder, Ben Wojkow. Under 14: Toshiba Yabbio.

SASF commissioner Norm Graham will lead the party as Head of Delegation, while Crook will be assisted by former West Adelaide Sharks and SA defender Brenton Hiern.

Mick Doyle is the scholarship coach, Joe Foley, the trainer and John Brannigan the tour manager.

The tour will write another chapter in the nine-year history of the SASI, which during its brief existence has fully justified its aims of developing the elite talent of the State.



Lucas Pantelis: The former Australian U20 international was Player of the Year for SASI in '98.

Adam Van Domelle: Former U17 Joeys star gained the honour of Player of the Year for the Institute last year.

Those who doubt that statement need only gaze at the imposing list of past graduates. Firstly, these are the former SASI captains, the majority of whom progressed to NSL level Bruno Giovannelli (1994), Michael Pirone (1995), Michael Cartwright (1996), David Terminello (1997), Ivan Karlovic (1998), Aaron Goulding, Scott Tunbridge (1999), Evan Metanowski (2000), Michele Lastella (2001/02).

The SASI Player of the Year honour board also makes impressive reading Steve DeGiovannelli (1994), Kon Anotoniou (1995), Danny Vidakovic (1996), George Tsonis (1997), Lucas Pantelis (1998), Scott Tunbridge (1999), Russell Waller (2000) and Adam VanDomelle (2001).

The SASI Players Player of the Year, introduced in 1997, went for the first two seasons to Ivan Karlovic, followed by Scott Tunbridge in 1999 and Steven Taddeo 2000.

EDDIE ALL FOR EDUCATION

South Melbourne coach, Eddie Krncevic believes his players should revert from full-time to part-time status from next season.

Having played for eight clubs during a distinguished 15 years as an overseas professional, Krncevic is ideally placed to offer an expert opinion on the lifestyle of players.

"It's difficult to have a career in soccer, par-

ticularly in Australia," Krncevic said, as he advocated the change.

"I think we (South Melbourne) should seriously think about going back to part-time next season.

"As things stand, players have too much time on their hands. In many cases, they just don't know what to do with themselves.

"They should be doing something else, in the study line, something that will benefit them in their future life."

If his suggestion is accepted, Krncevic said the training routine would not entail a major adjustment.

"We would probably have around the same number of training sessions, with most being in the evenings and some morning sessions."

Krncevic recalled that even overseas professional players faced similar predicaments to their Australian counterparts.

"European clubs of course have heavier match schedules than we have here, but there were many instances where players had too much idle time."

The former Australian international striker did not fall into that category during his overseas career as he was fortunate enough to spend much of this time helping to bring up his family, while performing his football duties. One of Australia's most famous soccer journeymen, Krncevic played for Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia), Duisberg (Germany), Cercle Brugge, Anderlecht, Liege, Aalst, Charleroi (Belgium) and Mulhouse (France) before coming home to coach Carlton to the 1997/98 season Grand Final in his rookie coaching season.

GOOD ON YA GARY

Gary Phillips did his Olympic Sharks proud by carrying off the NSL Grand Final in his first season as a senior coach.

There was not a trace of beginners luck about the victory as the surfing crazy Gary masterminded wins over other form teams, South Melbourne and Newcastle on his way to his ultimate goal of gloating over the Glory.

But, Phillips was not alone in achieving his first up victory as he followed in the footsteps of Zoran Matic, who won the NSL title in his maiden coaching season of 1986.

Others to work the first up trick were, Berti Mariani with Marconi, Frank Farina with Brisbane Strikers and Ron Corry with Wollongong Wolves.

While on the Grand Final, couldn't help admiring that post match description of his cracking winning goal by Ante Milicic, who said his left foot rocket went, "Up there where the spiders live."

SURE THING

Bookmakers would have been on a certainty had they wagered on predicting Adelaide Galaxy's likely line-up against Campbelltown City for the Premier League round 9 match at Hindmarsh Stadium.

That is because Galaxy secreted NSW Premier League players John Kyriazopoulos (Bonnyrigg White Eagles) and Naoki Imai (Blacktown City Demons) into its starting eleven.

That type of clandestine operation does nothing to promote the game, while the element of surprise on the opposition is lost minutes after the match kicks-off.



Con Makris: Adelaide Galaxy owner is hoping to lift the Premier League Championship this season.

John Kyriazopoulos: New Adelaide Galaxy recruit.

Surely, the object should be to seek as much publicity as possible when class players are signed from such a strong competition as the NSW Premier League.

Another Sydneysider, Jimmy Nikas, who was on loan to Galaxy last season, is tipped to join his Blacktown City teammate Imai at the SA club shortly.

Galaxy chairman Con Makris publicly stated that his passion to lift his team to a Premier League championship is costing him \$10,000 per week.

A slice of that sum could be recouped if the Galaxy publicity machine was given a good dose of oil.

BRAIN RETURNS

Former Under 20 and Under 17 World Cup midfielder Louis Brain has signed for Campbelltown Red Devils after a brief stint with Scottish Premier League club Dundee.

His spell with the Red Devils also will be short because his contract stipulates he can leave at the end of the season to seek an NSL club.

Brain left Adelaide City Force towards the end of last season to pursue his overseas ambitions.

SA IN FITTING TRIUMPH

OVER NSW

South Australia shattered a 39-year losing drought by downing New South Wales 2-1 in a thrill-packed interstate clash in front of 3,162 fans at Hindmarsh Stadium on Saturday night.

This second game in the Fasta Pasta Centenary Challenge series crowned SAs 100th birthday celebrations in a manner befitting the importance of the occasion.

Captain Michael Brooks broke the home teams scoring duck when he converted a 38th minute penalty awarded by referee Wayne Dade for a foul by Bonnyrigg White Eagles defender Tayfun Devrimol on Blue Eagles striker Jason Trimboli.

The goal brought huge relief for the home side that had goalkeeper Robbie Matosevic to thank for two magnificent close range saves to deny Mark Hoenselaars and James Stubbs-Mills in an 18th minute of frenetic NSW

attacking.

Cut and thrust action continued to entertain the wind swept crowd until the 90th minute as Corey Artone accepted a pin point left wing cross from Trimboli to slide home a second SA goal past substitute NSW goalkeeper Darren Moore.

There was a sting in the visitors tail four minutes into injury time when Vuko Tomasevic unleashed a 25 metre screamer that finally managed to beat outstanding SA glove-man Matosevic.

NSW coach Greg Woodhouse brought on Daniel Cummins to replace Robbie Angievski in the 53rd minute and the Parramatta Eagles player was booked 15 seconds after his introduction for pushing SA flank defender Michael Pirone. Cummins was in the spotlight again in the 74th minute when guilty of ballooning a shot from three metres, but atoned when he boomed a 20 metre drive against the far post.

Earlier, a cheeky chip by Artone almost cleared the advancing Jason Holmes, who had strayed off his goalline as SA tried every known method of adding to its score.

SA owed much to the midfield foraging of Aaron Westervelt, Artone and Rick Piotrowski, while Tomasevic, Sasha Utjesenovic and Stubbs-Mills were non-stop contributors for the light blues.

Brooks and Trimboli provided a potent SA strike force until skipper Brooks was replaced by Blue Eagles team-mate Frank Sergi in the 63rd minute.

The spirited nature of the game allied to the high standard of play, compared more than favourably with many NSL matches.

South Australia 2 (Brooks 38 penalty, Artone 90)
New South Wales 1 (Tomasevic 94).
Crowd: 3,162. **Referee:** Wayne Dade.
Cautions: Tsonis, Westervelt (SA), Utjesenovic, Cummins, Picken (NSW).

TEAMS: SA: Matosevic, Daniel Menechella, Tsonis, Yates, Brooks (Sergi 63), Westervelt, Artone, Trimboli, Piotrowski, Campbell, Pirone (Barbaro 83).

NSW: Holmes (Moore 67), Utjesenovic, Tomasevic, Devrimol, Angievski, (Cummins 74), Stubbs-Mills, Collins (Gardiner 81), Picken, Hoenselaars, Borg, (Scibberas), Van Bentum.

KINGS INTO CUP SEMI-FINALS

State League side Croydon Kings grabbed a West End Cup semi-final berth with a 3-0 win over Adelaide City at Hindmarsh Stadium on Saturday night.

Anthony Deptula netted a brace after Tony Musolino snared a 19th minute lead over the Premier League team.

Adelaide Olympic FC plays Galaxy and Playford Patriots meets Campbelltown City in a quarter-final double header on Wednesday, May 29 at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Raiders clash with Enfield Falcons in the other quarter-final on Wednesday, June 5.

URI GELLER NAMED CO-CHAIRMAN OF EXETER CITY

By Graham Cooke

Israeli psychic and spoon-bender Uri Geller has been named co-chairman of English Third Division club Exeter City in a shock announcement that also saw the end of the reign of long-serving chairman Ivor Doble.

Doble, who will take the role of honorary president, relinquished control to businessmen John Russell and Mike Lewis.

Geller, who will share the chairman's duties with Russell, said he decided to take the position because his son, Daniel, is a life-long Exeter supporter. Daniel will also join the board as co-vice chairman with Lewis.

"I hope I can do something to inspire the club, perhaps talk to the players and motivate them a little," Geller senior said. "But I won't be getting heavily involved in the day-to-day affairs of Exeter City. That's for John and Mike."

Russell, whose takeover with Lewis ends months of speculation about the future of the mid-table club after it hit a cash crisis in mid-season, said he hoped that having Geller on board "will open a few doors for us".

Given that Geller hit world prominence in the 1970s and 80s with his ability to bend spoons and other implements, apparently with the force of his mental energies, opening doors should be easy.

WORRYING SINGS FOR THE CAPITAL CITY SUNS

By Graham Cooke

Capital City Suns, ACT minor premiers in 1999 and until recently considered the glamour side of the competition, are struggling near the foot of the table with just one win in five games before the weekend's round.

The team that once included players of the quality of Tony Lemezina and Tony Giannasca are struggling to find form with a squad that lacks the dash and flair of past seasons.

Even so, coach Bill Dojcinoski is convinced the club can still have a successful season if a regular striking partnership can be found.

The recent 2-0 loss to league

leaders Canberra Deakin underlined his point, against a side of that quality the Suns could have played another 90 minutes without coming close to scoring.

Dominic Bartone would have made a difference, but he is still getting over an early season injury; likewise tough midfielder Nick Behr, an ever-present with the University of Canberra last season.

Add to that the loss of captain Dion Cannell, who tore ankle ligaments playing indoor soccer, and the extent of Dojcinoski's problems can be seen.

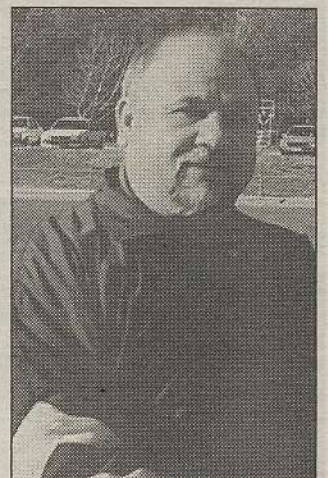
Even so, the club is strong at the back. Michael Seleki is a big-hearted central defender who holds things together, and another University defector, 18-year-old

Mark Rodman, is beginning to find his feet in the first team.

However, the last thing the Suns wanted was another injury, and that was what they got against Deakin, with Tie Tran helped from the field with possible knee ligament damage.

The coach remains confident his team will improve to the point where they can claim a top-four place. "We need a bit more luck with injuries and if that happens we have a great bunch of young players who are coming through to plug the gaps," he said.

While some of the shine of past seasons is missing, it would be a brave punter who would bet against the Suns rising again over the course of the next few weeks.



Bill Dojcinoski: Capital City Suns coach experiencing a hard time in the ACT competition.



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Premier League Review By Glenn Davis

BRISBANE CITY END NORTH STAR'S WINNING STREAK

Second placed Brisbane City remained four points off league leaders Queensland Lions despite ending giant killers North Star's four match winning streak with a hard fought one-nil at Spencer Park on Saturday night.

Brisbane City, who blooded three school-aged players off the bench, grabbed the winner in a match of few highlights in the 35th minute when Andrew King mopped up an error from North Star keeper Daniel Duke.

Duke, a former Brisbane Strikers and Queensland representative, spilled a Damien Waugh free kick from outside the box, much to the surprise of his former tea-mates at Brisbane City.

City coach Frank Pimblett was surprised but delighted with the goal, which gave City a crucial three points following Queensland Lions 2-nil win over Mt. Gravatt at Dittmer Park the previous night.

"I honestly expected a keeper of Dukey's ability to hold the free kick but he didn't and thankfully Kingy was there to mop up," Pimblett said.

The match was an intriguing battle of limited opportunities from two well drilled sides coached by former national league midfield teammates Pimblett and Bobby Hamilton who played together for Brisbane City in the early 1980's.

"It was a battle but a very important result for us," Pimblett said.

"North Star were only three points behind us and would have drawn level on the ladder had they won.

"The game itself wasn't very attractive as our pitch is becoming very bumpy."

Brisbane City were missing two of its regular starters in Pablo Aviles and John San Martin who had personal commitments but Pimblett grabbed the opportunity of bleeding some of the club's youngsters.

"When I came here from Ipswich the

committee wanted some of their younger players to be given a chance rather than go out and buy a team," Pimblett said.

"I didn't have a problem with that and we're starting to blood them slowly.

"I had three boys who all still go to



Adem Poric scored two goals in Gold Coast City's 4-0 rout over Wynnum.

school on the bench and they all got a fair go."

Pimblett paid tribute to North Star who he expected would continue to frighten many sides and would make the final six at the season's end.

"Considering they've only just been promoted they're a good side," Pimblett said.

"Most teams that come into this league from second division come with the aim of just staying up but North Star will be playing for a finals spot.

"Bobby (Hamilton) is a good coach and I knew they'd be a well drilled side.

"North Star had their chances to score and we only had about three in the entire game but we grabbed our chance when it came."

Pimblett is now hoping to reverse a successful trend from his former club Ipswich Knights who Brisbane City meets next week at Bundamba.

"When I was at Ipswich we always got a result against Brisbane City," he said.

"I became an expert on how to beat Brisbane City at Bundamba but now I'm with Brisbane City I've got to find a way of reversing the club's fortunes against them."

For the second successive week, Queensland Lions were given a fright by relegation threatened Mt. Gravatt before running out 2-nil winners at Dittmer Park.

Lions eventually wore down the home side after coach Miron Bleiberg made several tactical changes at the interval.

One of those changes was bringing on substitute Warren Allen who broke the deadlock midway through the second half when he finished a strong Lions movement when set up by in front of goal by Matt Olley.

Olley then drove a 20 metre shot past Mt Gravatt keeper Graham Ross to end Mt. Gravatt's hopes of salvaging a draw.

Mt. Gravatt battled hard but had midfielder Alan Bullpitt sent off for in the 65th minute with the game scoreless and nine other players booked in the game.

"It wasn't a spiteful game but every time they challenged us they were a bit rough at times," Bleiberg said.

"I was a bit disappointed the way we played in the first half but they defended well and we couldn't break them down.

"They've got some good experience where it counts with Ross, Craig Williams and Alan MacFarlane who marshalled their defence well."

Bleiberg made three changes at half time bringing on Warren Allen, Brad Ditton and Reece Tollenaere, which changed the course of the game.

"We dominated when they came on but it was easier when they had their player sent off," Bleiberg said.

"We should have scored more but it's never easy on their round.

"They're a better side than most people think and I can't see them being relegated especially if they play like that at home and pick up points."

Taringa Rovers paid nearly for a lack of concentration just before half time in their 1-all away draw with Toowoomba on Saturday night.

Taringa striker Steve Unsworth put the visitors in the lead five minutes before the interval finishing off from close range after teammate Daryl Hathaway set him up after winning an aerial challenge.

The equaliser came from Toowoomba's Lucey who capitalized on some sloppy marking off a long throw-in one minute before the break.

"It wasn't a great game but we should have been up one-nil at the break which might have changed things for the second half," said Taringa coach John Ogden.

"No side really dominated and it was a real arm wrestle but it was a simple lack of concentration in our defence which allowed them to score.

"They stacked their defence like they did when Lions just managed to beat them



East's Shane Coffey scored his side's only goal in their 2-1 loss to the Ipswich Knights.

and they're quite well organized defence wise."

The draw put Taringa on eight points but had little impact on their Top Six or relegation chances.

In other games goals from Wayne Adams and Matt Hilli steered Ipswich Knights to 2-1 win over Easts who scored through Shaun Coffey after the game was scoreless at halftime. Gold Coast stayed in touch with the leaders with a convincing 4-1 win over Wynnum who slipped to sixth on the table after a double from Adem Poric and goals from Mark Bennett and Daniel Fung.

Bottom placed The Gap scored a costly first win of the season with a 2-1 win over Rochdale on Sunday night.

The Gap scored in each half with goals from Don Kibbey and Alun Evans in reply to Rochdale's first half strike from Danny Stowers.

The Gap lost defender Dean Guyatt with a cruciate ligament injury, which is expected to rule him out of the remainder of the season.

PREMIER LEAGUE - Round 9

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Queensland Lions	9	9	0	0	0	0	27
Brisbane City	9	7	1	1	21	10	22
Gold Coast City	9	6	1	2	28	9	20
North Star	9	5	3	1	17	10	16
IPSW Knights	9	4	2	3	21	13	15
Wynnum	9	5	4	0	11	15	15
Taringa Rovers	9	2	5	2	9	15	8
Eastern Suburbs	9	2	5	2	11	18	8
T'wmba Raiders	9	0	4	5	10	16	5
Mt Gravatt	9	1	6	2	7	25	5
Rochdale Rov	8	0	5	3	10	19	3
The Gap	8	0	5	3	6	22	3

ROUND 9 RESULTS

Mt Gravatt	0	Queensland Lions	2
Eastern Suburbs	1	Ipswich Knights	2
Brisbane City	1	North Star	0
Toowoomba Raiders	1	Taringa Rovers	1
Wynnum	0	Gold Coast City	0

Rochdale Rovers v The Gap - KO 19/5/02 - 6pm

FIRST DIVISION - Round 11

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Pine Rivers Utd	11	9	1	1	26	7	28
Souths Utd	11	8	2	1	37	11	25
Bundaberg Waves	11	7	2	2	20	12	23
Mitchelton	11	6	2	3	31	17	21
Inala City	11	5	3	3	22	14	18
Capalaba	11	4	2	5	26	18	17
Newmarket	11	5	6	0	16	17	15
Rocklea Utd	11	5	6	0	21	25	15
Redlands Utd	11	4	4	3	15	23	15
Uni Of QLD	11	3	4	4	23	20	13
Albany Creek	11	3	5	3	12	24	12
Grange Thistle	11	2	8	1	8	31	7
Slacks Creek	11	0	8	3	8	23	3
Brisbane Olympic Uni	11	0	8	3	2	25	3

ROUND 11 RESULTS

Albany Creek	11	Capalaba	1
Olympic	0	Bundaberg	0
Souths Utd	4	Grange	1
Inala	2	Slacks CR	0
Rocklea	4	Mitchelton	3
Redlands	3	Newmarket	1
Pine Rivers	5	Uni of Qld	0

WEEKEND FIRST GRADE FIXTURES

◆ ROUND 10 ◆

Friday 24th May
Brisbane City v North Star 7.00pm

Saturday 25th May
North Star v T'wmba Raiders 7.00pm
Taringa Rovers v Rochdale Rovers 7.00pm

Sunday 26th May
Queensland Lions v Gold Coast City 4.00pm
Eastern Suburbs v Wynnum 3.00pm
IPSW Knights v Brisbane City 3.00pm

Berger's tame Lions

By Bert van Bedaf

Heidelberg United came from behind to win a tight battle 2-1 away to Preston Lions last Sunday, boosting its chances to avoid relegation from the Victorian Premier League this season.

After taking the lead in the first half, Preston lost the initiative after the break and Heidelberg struck twice to secure the vital three points.

Both sides finished the game with 10 players after send-offs late in the game. Referee Senko Rastocic dismissed Berger captain Cameron Brown for his second bookable offence and Preston defender Les Anastasiou for alleged swearing after the two opponents had clashed in the 85th minute and an altercation ensued. An angry Anastasiou later claimed Rastocic had booked the wrong Preston player. Both players will miss the next round.

It was Berger coach Vlado Vanis's first time back at BT Connor Reserve since saving Preston from relegation last season



and he may now well succeed in a similar mission with the Bergers.

"We're taking it game by game, but the target definitely now is to take a minimum of six wins (from the remaining nine rounds) and that will save us in the league," Vanis said.

Home side Preston created the first opportunity in the 31st minute when Ivan Filipovski found himself unmarked inside the box. But the Lions forward pushed the ball on to the crossbar with a right-foot turn and the Bergers breathed a sigh of relief as they cleared.

However, the Lions took the lead right on half-time with a nicely worked attack that had the Berger defence floundering.

Joe Kozic crossed from the right to John Sapazovski, who took on a defender and slotted home the opening goal underneath 'keeper Sam Frangos.

The Lions nearly doubled the lead in the 61st minute from a Chris Emsovski corner. Filipovski headed it on at the near post, but Anastasiou

headed it off the line for another corner.

Heidelberg leveled five minutes later from a cross on the right by George Georgiadis. Nick Lazarevski latched on to the move and slammed home the equalizer.

The Bergers almost stole the lead in the 83rd minute when Mile Medjedevic headed on to the crossbar from a Lazarevski cross.

But the nippy striker headed home his second goal of the match two minutes later to give Heidelberg its third win of the season and further hope of avoiding relegation.

Preston coach Vlade Torteovski was seething after the game and blamed the loss on losing defender David Petkovski through injury in the 65th minute.

Petkovski was substituted with experienced Nick Cuculeski, but Heidelberg took advantage of the defensive adjustment with a series of powerful attacks that ultimately resulted in the winning goals.

"It (substitution) changed everything for us. It went downhill from there. We missed far too many chances in the second half and copped two goals," Torteovski said.

Knights eyes two young players

By Bert van Bedaf

National league club Melbourne Knights are busy preparing for next season with assistant coach Luciano Trani scouring the Victorian Premier League for upcoming talent to add to the squad.

The Knights won't be able to attract big name players after it cut its budget down from about \$800,000 last season to as little as \$500,000 for next season and it will need to settle for local players.

"We're setting down a budget which we feel we can afford. Until things improve in the national league, we believe we can't afford losing big money," Knights president Ange Cimeria said.

"We'll probably pick two or three players from the Victorian Premier League and still be competitive in the NSL," he said.

Trani went to see Whittlesea's 2-2 draw with Bulleen last week and proved an interested observer. Trani said he was particularly impressed with central defender Isyan Erdogan.

"He was the best player on the ground by far," Trani said. "We'll need to have a look at him. I'd rate him a good wingback. He likes to go up and back. He did that at Carlton a couple of years ago," the Knights scout said.

Another potential candidate is Fawkner's Solomon Islands forward Henry Fa'Arudo, who was match winner for the Blues last week in a 1-0 victory over Fitzroy City.

The 19-year-old forward has been a handful for VPL sides this season with some fast and furious play.

An exchange player, Fa'Arudo is partly sponsored by the Victorian Soccer Federation to assist Oceania players in improving their skills and increasing their experience.

Fa'Arudo played two years in New Zealand for the Nelsons Suburbs team before player agent and Fawkner stalwart John Grimaud persuaded him to don the Blues.

"I studied at high school in New Zealand and played soccer when my agent (Grimaud) got me to Australia," a quietly spoken Fa'Arudo said.

He is shortly entering a drafting course to continue his education, but football with Fawkner may be his springboard into the national soccer league next season.

"Soccer here is different. The Premier League is more physical and the pace of the game is quicker, but I got myself settled in now," said Fa'Arudo, whose preferred position is behind the two strikers in a 3-5-2 or 4-4-2 formation.

He will be staying in Melbourne until August and return home for a holiday to be re-united with his family.

"But I'll come back and try to get into the NSL," Fa'Arudo said. His preferred side is the Melbourne Knights, he said.

Trani said he'd already been made aware of Fa'Arudo's talents. "He certainly is an emerging talent and we'll keep him in mind," Trani said.

Saints appoint Silic as coach

By Bert van Bedaf

Embattled St Albans Saints have appointed Mark Silic its new coach following the shock departure of two coaches in a week at the club.

When Zlatko Vego departed, the Saints appointed Ante Vidovic, but he left within 24 hours.

Silic is the eighth coaching change in the Victorian Premier League this season.

The former Melbourne Knights midfielder joined St Albans a few weeks ago after leaving the Whittlesea Stallions following a disagreement. Silic's assistant is Joe Cuze.

After last week's promising 0-0 draw with Bentleigh Greens as caretakers, the pair copped a 3-0 drubbing from league leader Fawkner Blues last Sunday.

Striker Santo Emmanuele did the damage with a hat-trick. The score was 2-0 at half time.

ROYS AND HODGSON PART

By Bert van Bedaf

The stellar career of Doug Hodgson as a Victorian Premier League coach took another nosedive last week when Fitzroy City and the former Sheffield United player parted company after four rounds.

His is the seventh coaching change in the VPL this season. The record stands at 13 several years ago.

Hodgson quit Preston after two rounds, joined Fitzroy a month ago when Dragan Blazeski was sacked and now has the amazing record of having been at two clubs and walked twice in a dozen rounds.

Caretaker coach at Fitzroy

is reserves coach for the past two seasons Bill Naumovski, who spent ten years as reserves coach of Preston.

It seems it will be up to Naumovski to save the Roys from a quick return to the State League. They're up against St Albans, Heidelberg and Bulleen for the fight to avoid relegation.

"The main priority for us this season is staying in the premier league.

If we don't get points soon, we'll be in trouble with the others," Naumovski said.

Naumovski said he'd take on the senior job if offered. "I have my ideas and if the conditions are right, why not. It's every reserves coach's dream to one day take over and coach the seniors," Fitzroy's caretaker coach said.

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE STATS

ROUND 13 RESULTS

Sun, 19 May, 3:00 PM

Fawkner Blues SC	3	St Albans Saints SC	0
(Emmanuele 3)			
Preston Lions SC	1	Heidelberg United SC	2
(Sapazovski 1)		(Lazarevski 2)	
Bentleigh Greens SC	0	Altona East Phoenix SC	0

Sun, 19 May, 6:00 PM

Green Gully Cavaliers SC	0	Whittlesea Stallions SC	1
		(Kalogeracos 1)	

FIXTURES - ROUND 14

FRI, 24 MAY, 8:15 PM

Whittlesea Stallions SC vs. Altona Magic SC

SAT, 25 MAY, 3:00 PM

Fitzroy City SC vs. Green Gully Cavaliers SC
--

SUN, 26 MAY, 3:00 PM

St Albans Saints SC vs. Bulleen Zebras SC
Heidelberg United SC vs. Port Melbourne Sharks SC

Preston Lions SC vs. Bentleigh Greens SC
Altona East Phoenix SC vs. Fawkner Blues SC

2002 PREMIER LEAGUE

ROUND 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
1. Fawkner Blues SC	13	7	4	2	23	14	25
2. Bentleigh Greens SC	13	5	7	1	18	12	22
3. Port Melbourne Sharks SC	12	6	3	3	27	19	21
4. Green Gully Cavaliers SC	13	6	3	4	13	8	21
5. Altona East Phoenix SC	13	5	5	3	16	12	20
6. Whittlesea Stallions SC	13	4	7	2	19	20	19
7. Preston Lions SC	13	5	3	5	19	15	18
8. Altona Magic SC	12	3	4	5	20	18	13
9. Heidelberg United SC	13	3	4	6	22	34	13
10. Fitzroy City SC	12	3	3	6	10	14	12
11. St Albans Saints SC	13	3	3	7	7	20	12
12. Bulleen Zebras SC	12	1	4	7	15	23	7

VPL CLUBS MEET TO DISCUSS SECOND DIVISION

By Bert van Bedaf

The Victorian Soccer Federation has called a meeting for all Victorian Premier League clubs on Thursday night to discuss the formation of a second division national league for the season 2003-2004.

At a recent meeting in Sydney all state federations expressed their desire to establish a second division and create a format for promotion and relegation up and down the tiers of state leagues, second division and the NSL.

The second division will comprise a 10-team competition with four or five clubs from New South Wales and perhaps only one or two from Victoria, according to sources.

Teams would also be drawn from Queensland and possibly South Australia as well as the Northern Territory. There would also be one team from the ACT.

A sub-committee has been formed to

deal with criteria for the second division, such as budget, travel cost, salary cap and facilities. Three delegates each from NSW, Victoria and Queensland have been elected to begin a feasibility study.

With a anticipated start in November next year, one of the biggest hurdles is cost. So far, it is believed a second division budget would be around \$750,000 per year.

VSF chairman Manny Galanes and former VSF chairman now Soccer Australia commissioner Joe Brondolino are long-standing supporters of a second division and promotion and relegation to create more incentive and opportunities for clubs.

Victorian clubs keen to enter a second division include Preston, Bulleen, Green Gully and Heidelberg.

Berger president Elias Delyiannis spoke enthusiastically about the concept. "We will apply, absolutely," Delyiannis. "Clubs need incentives."

All clubs want something to aim for," he said.

Letters to the Editor

OLYMPIC SHARKS ARE NUMBER ONE

Dear Sir,

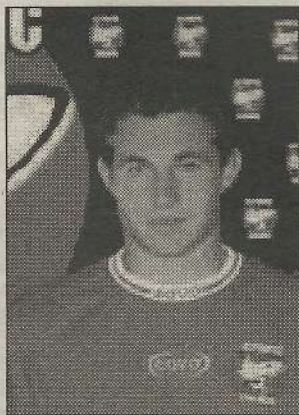
I would like to comment further on my letter from last week about the success of the Olympic Sharks.

They have proved all the punters and the doubters wrong in capturing the NSL Championship trophy and they proved in their game on Sunday that the right tactics delivered by a knowledgeable coach and performed by talented players can overcome the most elite individuals in any team.

Paul Kohler and Jade North were outstanding in their defensive duties on Damien Mori and Bobby Despotovski proving that the Perth side is a too one-dimensional attacking side.

Those two had very few chances and as a result Perth never had any attacking flair. In midfield Wayne Shroj did outstandingly well and Troy Halpin was rarely missed out on the park.

For such a young boy to play so



Paul Kohler: Olympic's rising star.

well shows he has a bright future in the game.

Up front meanwhile, Ante Milicic proved the difference between the two sides and showed that unlike Perth strikers, a good striker takes advantage of the half chances presented to them.

Milicic was an inspiration to the team and an invaluable mid-

season buy.

Congratulations to the Olympic Sharks and in particular Gary Phillips who has featured in the two titles of the club-first as a player, then as a coach. He has proved to be that missing link.

Michael Tambakis,
Bondi, NSW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Sharks proved to many people that they were no push-over team taking out the Glory last week.

Youngsters Paul Kohler (a product of the Olympic Youth system) and hopeful Socceroo Jade North were not only outstanding in the Finals match, but in the season overall.

As for coach Gary Phillips, it was upsetting how he was not in the running for coach of the year. His first year as coach winning a title does justice to what a great season he had, well done Gary.

PERTH GLORY SORE LOSERS

Dear Sir,

While Perth have led the way until last weekend with their on-field achievements, I was appalled at not only their players but also their fans, who in the

wake of their grand-final loss decided walk off and leave the Olympic Sharks to receive their trophy in-front of almost an empty stadium.

Such actions are inexcusable from a crowd, often regarded as being the most informed of all the soccer crowds around Australia. Through these actions I have lost a great deal of respect for this crowd and also the club who while disappointed did not accept the defeat with nobility and grace.

The height of my criticisms came after I read the quotes of Bobby Despotovski who was extremely sour about the result. As a captain he should recognise the achievements of the opposite team and accept that a better team beat his team.

However in all the mainstream media and also in your paper in the write-ups Despotovski who was

quoted on numerous occasions gave no such credit. If such reports have captured the true felling of Despotovski and his team, then perhaps Perth Glory did not deserve to win the championship.

On the other hand; Gary Phillips always came across in the right manner, as did his captain Clint Bolton who was a credit to his club and himself in the way he acted after his team claimed victory. If soccer is a game of character, then I can say that the right team won on the day.

John Deere,
Macquarie Park, NSW.



Gary Phillips: Olympic's successful coach.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mitch d'Avray stated that he and his team did witness the award ceremony after the match.

The Glory felt hard done by after having yet another terrific season go unnoticed as the Grand-Final system took its toll.

The Glory were the front-runners for the whole of the season but finals football belonged to the Sharks.

STALLIONS NEW RECRUITS NECESSARY?

Dear Sir,

After reading your article telling of the appointment of the new Marconi coaching staff, I am compelled to say, was such an appointment totally necessary.

In his first year as the Stallions coach, Lee Sterrey did a marvellous job in bringing the best out of his team. His policy of promoting talented youngsters into the first grade team helped many get a stepping stone to bigger and better things. While not only looking to the future in terms of his team selections, Sterrey's team was more than competitive on the pitch last season and pulled off some credible results against more fancied teams.

With the appointment of Rale Rasic, Raul Blanco and Doug Utjesenovic all the hard work of the club has suddenly been lost. Is it a wonder that Marconi has not won a League title in a great number of years with their annual chopping and changing of coaching personnel?

The most successful teams are those that keep regular coaching staff for a number of seasons so an understanding between coach and player is generated.



Marconi's new managerial team.

Such consistency cannot be generated when new staff is introduced each year. It is a farce to expect the players to adapt immediately to new tactics and new coaching techniques.

Lee Sterrey's approach to coaching was fresh and innovative. I fear however that with Rasic, Blanco and Utjesenovic in charge at Marconi, such modern coaching methods will be replaced by older methods that are proving more and more futile in the modern soccer environment.

All three coaches have been out of the highest level of coaching for a number of years and I suspect the reasons lies behind their inability to adapt to change. There goes an old saying 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it'. There was nothing wrong with the approach that Marconi had taken to their coaching.

In fact the long-term approach to the success of the club, was the most forward thinking initiative that Marconi had taken for a while. Yet once again such ideas have been replaced by the old ways that have proved useless in the past and which I believe will prove even more useless in the future.

Vincent Morelli,
Fairfield, NSW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: These three men have been one of the many pioneers of Australian soccer as we know it.

Statements that they were not for the job and that being away from the game were bad for the club is total hogwash. Rale 'the legend' Rasic was the only coach ever to take Australia to a World Cup, his experience at world stage is second to none. He's also coached a number of National League clubs also gaining a coach of the year award so the statistics speaks for itself.

Raul Blanco has coached a number of National League clubs and was heavily involved in many Australian sides as well. Sixteen months back, Blanco was coach of the Australian Olympic side and also worked very close to former Socceroo coach Terry Venables during that period.

Finally Doug Utjesenovic was also a quality player and coach who guided the Parramatta Eagles to a championship in three grades. Saying that he was gone from the game for a long time is total rubbish. Doug was coach of NSW Premier League side Bonnyrigg last season.

Experience written all over the Stallions managerial side is a fair statement to say the least. The trio will no doubt bring the glory days back to the Stallions.

OLYMPIC-OLYMPIC-OLYMPIC

Dear Sir,

How great it was to witness such a great win for the Olympic Sharks against the Glory at the recent National League final.

The boys showed true Olympic spirit and character, it was the best feeling in the world watching them take out the Glory in their own home.

The Perth media really put down the Sharks in the lead up to the Final. They called them easy beats, they were so wrong.

I was one of the 4-5 thousand fans on Monday night who celebrated at Shark Park, it was an amazing night, the squad did us all proud, the National League trophy is back in Sydney!

Well done boys, lets go for number two next year. Final trophy.

Richard Shaw,
Sutherland, NSW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Its Olympic fever, the lads proved many people wrong by beating the Glory for the Final. Both teams played good in patches however that sole goal by Ante 'the left footed machine' Milicic finished off any Glory fightback. The irony is that most goals Milicic scored were not with his left but his opposite foot, a fine goal in any part of the footballing world.

Overall it was a great team effort, the guys pulled through together and in the end got what they deserved, the Grand-



ANTE JURIC A LEGEND!

Dear Sir,

I have nothing but praise for Olympic Sharks defender Ante Juric who played with a cast around his arm in the sides Grand-Final win.

Ante the legend is a true example of what a traditional soccer player should, playing for the jersey and for the love of the game.

He took a few knocks during the match however he proved to everyone that he was one tough customer.

I heard he is out of contract with the Sharks, hopefully the higher powers at the club select him for the forth-coming year as

he truly is a great asset.

Frank Farina should take note of Ante's performance he could well do with a green and gold jersey again!

Steve Matrikis
Rose Bay, NSW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In my opinion Ante Juric should have a got man of the match, apart from his courage, he really played well as his performance was absolutely flawless. Credit to Ante who no doubt gets better in age, a Socceroo call-up would be a fitting surprise to a player that served the Sharks well.



Ante Juric

THE WORLD CUP FOR VIEWERS



By Colin Turner

There is no doubt in my mind that the World Cup of 2002 will be remembered for a great deal more than the skilful football we are about to see, the exciting movements of players and the great and spectacular goals that will be scored.

The World Cup is always a very special occasion, for all the Nations taking part, for the players that represent their countries for the coaching staff and all those behind each Football Association with a team representing them.

It's also going to be a very exciting time for



Leading the way, "The voice of Australian Soccer" shown making a point at one of his seminars.

the people of Korea and Japan as the host nations.

They have been preparing for this event for the last seven years.

Having visited many of the Stadiums that will host the games, the facilities for everyone will be first class.

I have just returned from Asia where I had the pleasure of instructing many of the Commentators of Asia in the FIFA organized seminar.

This was organized by DHOS PAAK Communications Agency, who is one of the rights holders for broadcasting the World Cup in Asia. The seminar was organized by Colonel Nares Isarakura, and Mr. Vorawoot Rojanaparnich the CEO of DHOS PAAK.

My job was to teach 54 different commentators how to broadcast the games of the World Cup from the TUBE. As you will understand not all commentators are able to fit into all the Stadiums at every World Cup game. Also many of the TV stations and networks may not have the budget to send a complete team of Commentators producers, directors, and technical people to travel all over the host's countries.

Some countries will of course host the games from a Central point in Seoul or Tokyo, as SBS did for the last three World Cups.

Les Murray and Johnny Warren presented the 1998 World

Cup from studios Paris, and the 1994 from San Francisco.

This year many of the countries are hosting the World Cup presentations from their own Studios as the time difference in Asia and here in Australia is very suitable. The people who have a problem this time are the Europeans, as the games are shown on TV live early morning before the working day starts.

My task at the delightful Imperial Queen's Park Hotel in Bangkok was to instruct and help the Commentators and the analysts, or colour commentators "the tricks" of commenting off the Tube.

These commentators will be situated in a small, usually cramped room, with one or two Television sets relaying the pictures of the game. The Technical people will have delivered from the ground where the game is being played a "Clean Feed" of the sound from the Stadium and the commentators then read the game from the TV pictures.

This is a special "art form" not easy to do,

but most commentators can handle it with a little practice thus leaving the viewer at home with the impression that the commentator is at the ground.

Some of the people I was instructing in Asia have never called games in this fashion, as they usually go to the games in their own country and call it "live" from the ground.

The big changes for the viewer and for commentators this World Cup comes about from technology. You will notice a great deal about your coverage, that is different. The biggest change will be for you the viewer.

The World Cup always had a special place in the minds of the people of all nations but that became even more special in 1962 when for the first time the games were shown live on television from Chile.

The coverage did have many problems, very few people had a TV set that was capable of accept the pictures, and most of Europe

years away.

The Ninth World Cup tournament took place in Mexico in 1970 and over two thirds of the world nations were able to see the games live on Television.

With the advancement of the technology today, we can now sit in our lounge rooms in all corners of the world and watch instant replays of goals, the great moments, all played to us in slow motion.

We have computers that record every kick of the ball, every foul committed, we have close up shots of the players celebrations, we can even look into the eye of a player from a camera positions 200 meters away.

Radio has played an enormous part in the promotion of the game around the world.

We must not forget that contribution, as people in the deserts of Africa, the rainforests of Brazil, the coal mines of Wales were able to listen to games live on the old

they were his brothers.

He has to have an education that allows him freedom of his language to describe the happenings and incidents of a game in 100th of seconds.

The television commentator and radio commentator for that matter has to have total recall of incidents, past history of games, of players, and everything associated with the sport and at the same time remember that he is the Eyes and the Voice of all those viewers who have tuned in to learn of everything that is taking place in front of him at the game.

The commentator has to have complete concentration, has to stay calm in all kinds of circumstances and has to realize that his excitement will be bounced by satellite around the world.

He also has to understand that he will make half his audiences very happy, and make the other half very sad.

A commentator has to prepare well for the task ahead, he will have spent many hours doing his homework on every team that is taking part in the World Cup.

The requirements of a commentator are many, but this year for the first time we will have some very exciting new innovations.

For this World Cup and the group games or regular matches, the director will have 20 cameras covering each game, as well as having nine slow motions cameras in operation.

For the Quarterfinals each game will have 23 cameras and 12 Slow motion cameras in operation.

He will also have available a "Tactical Shot". This is something very new for the director to use. He can now, with all the new Technology available give the viewer at home a complete picture of the whole pitch as the game is in progress. This picture is shot from a camera high up behind the goal area.

This gives the viewer at home the instant picture of where every player is on the pitch at that time. Also available will be Overhead cameras that will act like the Blimp except that the cameras operate on a cable running around across the pitch from the South Corner on the left hand side to the North Right hand corner.

Technology will make this World Cup something different, and we can just hope that the players with all their new technology of boots and lightweight gear can make this another World Cup to remember.



Colin Turner shown here at the recent World Commentators seminar in Asia.

only saw the games on tape three or four days later.

The only other way some people had of seeing the World Cup highlights was in the local Cinema.

In 1966, communication in the world had improved and the Finals

held in England were shown live around the world. Of course not the entire world, as satellite distribution was still another four

Wireless since 1930, some used dry battery cells to generate the sound of the commentator trying to describe the game under some very difficult circumstances.

As I pointed out to my audience, I believe that the Television Commentator has the most difficult job of all right now.

First he has to be well prepared, he has to have a complete knowledge of the game. He has to know each player of every team as if

SOCCER WOMAN WITH JANENE MAR

YOUNG MATILDAS TO PLAY USA, ENGLAND, & CHINESE TAIPEI

The Young Matildas have been drawn in Group C with superpower USA, England, and Chinese Taipei for the inaugural FIFA U19 Women's World Championship hosted by Canada in August.

FIFA conducted the official Draw last Monday evening at their headquarters in Zurich. Australia's name was the last to be drawn out (Group C, team 4) of the twelve finalist nations in the ceremony which determined the three pools of four. This means the Young Matildas will face Chinese Taipei in its opening match on 17 August, before the clash with USA on 19 August, and round off the group matches against England on 21 August.

Group C will be based in the Canadian town of Victoria, playing at the 6,000-capacity Centennial Stadium.

USA, with the luxury of 8 million female players in their ranks and a record second to none at senior international level, are one of the favourites to win FIFA's newest event, just as they did to claim the first Women's World Cup crown in 1991. The US are the only team of the three that Australia has played at youth level, going down 6-0 to the Americans in the U17 adidas Cup of 2000.

England are celebrating a return to the top echelons, reward for the millions of pounds being invested into the game which includes a fulltime academy for this age group. England were unlucky to go down to eventual champions Germany in last week's European semifinals.

Chinese Taipei were the surprise team to qualify from Asia, taking the place of the ever-present China to advance to their first FIFA event since the 1991 Women's World Cup. Chinese Taipei finished second in their qualifiers behind Japan.

Following the group matches, those to advance to the quarterfinals will be the first two-placed teams from each group plus the two best third-placed sides.

National Youth Coach Mike Mulvey is pleased with the outcome of the Draw for Australia, and is now keen to start the Young Matildas' preparations.

"I think it's a good draw," said Mulvey. "It gives us the opportunity of pitting ourselves against the might of world power USA, England who are on the rise again, and Chinese Taipei who knocked out China. It's exciting and we're really looking forward to it - it will be a great challenge."

Mulvey added, "Now we know the draw, we know our exact situation. We have fourteen weeks until our first game, and now we can start preparations in great detail. Preparation is the most important aspect. If we can play a couple of teams from other groups and gauge where we are, we'll go with eyes wide open into our first game."

Certainly the biggest advantage in playing in the same group as the US will be the large crowds they will attract. "Hopefully we'll win over some of those supporters with the quality of our football," said Mulvey. "I'm sure our girls will rise to the occasion of playing before big crowds."

Group A sees hosts Canada up against European semifinalists Denmark, African champion Nigeria, and Asian front-runners Japan in the main host city Edmonton. The two best European teams, Germany and France, are together in Group B in Vancouver with central

Americans Mexico and South American champs Brazil.

Australia qualified earlier this month as Oceania champions, securing the berth with a 6-0 win over rivals New Zealand in the final of the tournament played in Tonga.

The FIFA U19 Women's World Championship will be contested 17 August to 1 September this year. A total of 82 countries competed in the qualifying stages of the event to determine the final twelve.

Group A	Group B	Group C
Canada	Germany	USA
Denmark	France	England
Nigeria	Mexico	Chinese Taipei
Japan	Brazil	AUSTRALIA

MATCH SCHEDULE: GROUP C:

17 Aug 1.00pm	USA v England	Victoria
17 Aug 3.15pm	Ch. Taipei v AUSTRALIA	Victoria
19 Aug 5.00pm	England v Chinese Taipei	Victoria
19 Aug 7.15pm	AUSTRALIA v USA	Victoria
21 Aug 5.00pm	England v AUSTRALIA	Victoria
21 Aug 7.15pm	Chinese Taipei v USA	Victoria

24-25 August - Quarterfinals

29 August	Semifinals	Edmonton
1 September	3rd Playoff	Edmonton
1 September	Final	Edmonton

THE SOCCER FOOTBALL BUS

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The Soccer Football Bus, starting from this issue will bring you all the latest news, views and gossip from the competitive world of the NSW Women's Super and State Leagues.

This week we concentrate on the St George club.

The ST. GEORGE SAINTS have drawn NORTH WEST SYDNEY KOALAS this Wednesday night at St. George Stadium in Round 2 of The Waratah Shield. Kick off is at 7.30pm. The Saints defeated UNIVERSITY OF NSW 2:0 in their first round clash.

☆☆☆

The ST. GEORGE SAINTS women's teams are having a trivia night this Saturday night (18/5/02), 7.30pm at the

MOOREFIELD BOWLING CLUB,

French St, KOGARAH (UBD 294 L/M 3/4).

The cost is \$10 per person.

Contact LES FARKAS on 0402 506 769 to book your tickets!!



WC STADIUMS 2002 PART D



16. Jeju World Cup Stadium, Seogwipo, South Korea

Seogwipo is South Korea's chief South Coast City and is located on the country's largest island, Jeju-do, at the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula.

Beneath the main peak of Mt Halla lie numerous tourist attractions ranging from mountainous landscapes with valleys and waterfalls to beaches with small islands and clear waters.

This region has year round mild temperatures meaning the football should not be affected by bad weather. Seogwipo has an industrial structure primarily led by tourism and is also the sole producer of tropical fruits such as tangerines in Korea.

Jeju-do has also been the choice for the highest level summits between Korean and foreign national leaders.

The stadium itself is designed in the shape of an Oreum — secondary volcanos — found all over Jeju island.

The roof's shape symbolises Teu, traditional fishing boats. The stadium's entrance represents Olle and Jeongnang, which are the entrance and gate of a traditional thatched-roof home.

The playing field is 14 metres below ground level, which should reduce the effect of wind. The stadium's seats also offer a magnificent view of Mt. Halla to the north and

Beomseom (island) to the south.

The east part of the grand stand with about 8,000 seats will be moved to the Ganchanghak Training Ground after the World Cup and that will make another sports complex with two pitches and an athletics track.

STADIUM INFORMATION:

Location: 914 Beophwan-dong, Seogwipo-si, Jeju-do
Capacity: 42,256
Parking: 666
Access: 50 min. by car from Jeju Airport (45 km) / 50 min. from Jeju Port (60 km).



Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

Wolves View Locals - Youth Development Coach Eddie Tesoro was seen at Crehan Park last week attending the Premier League fixture Cringila against Tarrawanna. He did cast a critical eye over Youth Grade talent and first graders on show and several local boys could be invited to attend pre-season trials with the Wolves.

New Outfit Worked - Barney King, coach of Shellharbour City Soccer Club must have thought the new designed shirts, shorts and socks from MM Sports Warehouse lifted his side to an exciting 3:3 draw with top contender Albion Park White Eagles. VIPs witnessed a top clash in front of a large crowd and the juniors from the U/8's of Shellharbour and Oak Flats entertained everybody with an exhibition game.

Representative Teams - every Illawarra soccer player selected to represent the area surely sees it as recognition of his high standing in local soccer. For next month's clash with a Canberra eleven on Saturday 8th June, venue Hawker Oval (enclosed), kick-off Youth 12 noon, First Grade 2.30 PM, departure Wollongong from the Fraternity Club 7.30 AM, arrival Belconnen 11 AM. Function at Belconnen Club 5.30 PM, departure for home 8.30 PM.

Two training sessions for both grades will be held on Wednesday 22/5 and 29/5 at Wetherill Park. Coaches are Adrian Alston and Rob Birkin, team manager Cario Notarianni and Warwick Young, strapper Terry Stewart.

Team selection Seniors Mathew Bailey, Chad Bishop, Joe Bruni, Matt Callaghan, Claude Cellini, Michael Clare, Steven Kemp, Steve Krishna, Alan Laproto, Stuart Lowrie, Anthony Matthews, Alan McLeish, Michael Merriman, Victor Costabile, Graham Goodfellow, Harry James.

Youth Team - Brad Boardman, Nathan Broad, Grant Brown, Nick Gallagher, Rhys Gillard, Alex Kotevski, Dominic McGill, Matthew Naylor, Matt Parker, Daniel Ratajcoski, Brad Touhy, Pano Tzolakiidis, Colin Walker, Phil Weston, Nathan Wright.

REVIEWS AFTER ROUND 6 AND FORECAST PROSPECTS - ICU Premier League competition table at present = 1st place Lysaght on 14 points.

2nd placed is Kemblawarra on 12 points.

3rd is Picton Rangers, the real surprise package, on 11 points.

4th placed is rejuvenated Olympic with new coach Peter Willis on 10 points.

5th is Port Kembla on 9 points.

6th spot Coniston Lions on 8 points.

7th is Cringila Lions also on 8 points and gradually improving.

8th spot Bulli on 6 points.

9th is Balgownie Rangers on 6 points.

10th West Illawarra on 6 points, not travelling as well as expected.

11th is Kiama on 5 points.

12th and last is Tarrawanna on 4 points.

Youth Grade Results - Coniston is leading the table on 15 points, followed in 2nd spot by Balgownie on 14 points, 3rd Cringila 14, 4th Bulli on 13, 5th Port Kembla 10, 6th Lysaght 8, 7th Olympic 8, 8th Picton on 7, 9th West on 7, 10th Kemblawarra on 4, 11th Kiama 1 point, last Tarrawanna no points. Reserve Grade - leading Lysaght 15 points, Tarrawanna 12, Balgownie 10, Olympic 10, Bulli 10, Coniston 8, Picton 8, Kemblawarra 7, Port Kembla 7, West on 6, Cringila on 6 and Kiama on 3 points.

ICU Conference League after round 6 = The lead has changed, Dapto is now on top with 16 points two in front of Albion Park WE and Berkeley. Both teams dropped valuable points in draws, while Dapto won away at Highlands United.

Albion Park WE facing

Shellharbour City, fell behind first by one goal in the first half but came back strongly in the second half to lead by two goals before Barney King's men showed heart to come back to equalise.

Berkeley dropped points rather surprisingly away at Northern United with a 0:0 draw against the Phil Carr coached team which has improved greatly with some new players. The result was not quite expected by Berkeley coach Phil Brown, now facing Dapto for the top spot.

Now in 4th position are Warilla Wanderers with a strong win away against University which are in 6th place.

5th is taken by Highlands United, equal points with 6th placed University and 7th is Fernhill, all facing difficult opponents next. 8th is South Coast United.

The remaining eight sides are not too far behind, still within reach to move up the ladder. In Youth Grade Woonona leads with 16 points, 5 wins, 1 draw, even though only playing 1:1 in the last match. Dapto and Fernhill follow on 15 points each, both recording solid wins.

In Reserve Grade Dapto leads with 16 points as does their first grade, followed by three sides on 13 points Fernhill, University and Berkeley while Albion Park WE on 12 points, Woonona on 10, South Coast 9 and 8th is Helensburgh on 8 points followed by two others also on same points.

Juniors Leading teams after 4 rounds = in first Division U/11's Kiama, U/12's Oak Flats, U/13's Albion Park, U/14's Port Kembla, U/15's Unanderra, U/16's Figtree, U/17's Oak Flats, U/18's Figtree. In 2nd division u/11's Fernhill, u/12's Fernhill, u/13's Balgownie, u/14's Warilla, u/15's Coniston, u/16's Albion Park. In 3rd division u/11's Koonawarra, u/12's Shellharbour, u/13's Berkeley, u/14's Bulli. In 4th division u/11's Russell Vale, u/12's Balgownie. In 5th division u/11's

Coledale.

Girls Soccer tables = u/12's Woonona, u/14's Albion Park, u/16's Oak Flats, u/18's Woonona. Shellharbour's U/14's - 2nd in first division, will take part in the KANGA cup tournament played in Canberra on the weekend 13th and 14th July.

Soccer Dates next Round 8 = played 25/5.02 Premier League - Cringila Lions v Kiama, Kemblawarra v Picton Rangers, Balgownie v Port Kembla, Bulli v Coniston Lions, Lysaght v Olympic, Tarrawanna v West.

Conference League - Helensburgh v Albion Park WE, Fernhill v Bellambi, Berkeley v Dapto, Highlands v Ruse, Northern United v Woonona, Barbs v Warilla Wanderers, Shellharbour City v University, Shoalhaven City v South Coast United.

WEEKEND SOCCER RESULTS OF ROUND 7 IN ICU PREMIER @ CONFERENCE LEAGUE

Premier League:
Kiama 3 Kemblawarra 3
Picton Rangers 4 Balgownie 1
Port Kembla 3 Bulli 2
West 1 Cringila 3
Olympic 0 Tarrawanna 0
Coniston Lions v Lysaght 1-0

Conference League:
Albion Park 7
Northern United 0

Bellambi 0
Highlands 2

Berkeley 3 Helensburgh 2
Dapto 3 Fernhill 2
Ruse 0 Barbs 2
Warilla Wanderers 0
Shoalhaven 0

Woonona 0
Shellharbour City 2
University 4
South Coast United 2

ACT PREMIERSHIP WRAP-UP

By Graham Cooke

The two leading clubs in the ACT Premiership lost their 100 per cent records in separate matches on Sunday as battling performances by teams below them showed the title race could be more open than many observers thought.

Canberra Deakin were held to a 3-3 draw by reigning premiers Gungahlin Juventus, conceding their first goals of the campaign in the process, and Juventus coach Ian Heywood said the result could mark a turning point for his team.

"We've dropped too many points this season through not giving enough respect to the opposition," he said. "Today we got in there and got our hands dirty and there was reward for hard work."

Juventus took the lead just before half time through George Cattanaach, but two quick goals from Zvonko Uslerbrka left them chasing the game.

Matt Valeri scored an equaliser, but Juventus went behind again when Alex Castro netted in his first game for Deakin this season. Robbie Schroder snatched an equaliser.

Heywood said his team had set itself a standard. "Now we have to live up to it for the rest of the season," he said.

Monaro missed their chance to go

top when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Capital City Suns. The Suns' scorer was Dominic Bartone.

However the injury worries that have plagued the Suns all season continue. They were without Ti Tran, and key defender Michael Seleke played while only half fit. To make matters worse Simon Foxhill succumbed to an ankle injury and Goran Josifoski finished the game limping.

Belconnen United surrendered a 2-0 lead to lose 3-2 to Tuggeranong United, a result that cements a top-four position for the team from the southern suburbs.

The Bels led through Tim Davison and Adam Fuller but at 2-1 Fuller missed a penalty. The sending off of Manuel Sermenio further restricted Belconnen and Tuggeranong grabbed the points with two goals. Their scorers were ACT Academy of Sport captain Matt Menser and two from Ben Doyle.

In a result that most likely consigns Weston Creek Royals to bottom position, they were beaten 2-0 by Canberra Olympic.

Olympic coach Vic Fernandez said that at the beginning of the season he had thought a win in the first round was unlikely, but his newly rebuilt side were making progress.

Scorers for Olympic were Elia Sallouni and 16-year-old midfielder Mohsen Ravanbarsa.

ACT PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	5	4	1	0	19	3	13
Monaro	5	4	1	0	13	3	13
Tuggeranong United	6	3	1	2	11	10	10
Gungahlin Juventus	6	2	3	1	17	13	9
Capital City Suns	6	1	3	2	10	8	6
Belconnen United	6	2	0	4	8	10	6
Canberra Olympic	6	1	3	2	8	16	6
Weston Creek Royals	6	0	0	6	3	26	0



WC STADIUMS 2002 PART D



17. Miyagi Stadium, Japan

This stadium is aimed at being space age. The structure is a multiplex spiral and is supposed to represent the Galaxy. It also has a lot of other facilities attached to the stadium with the ground being at its core. The Miyagi Stadium is situated just outside the prefect Ural capital city of Sendai.

Completed in March 2000, the stadium boasts state-of-the-art facilities while paying homage to the area's historical heritage with a design combining the traditional and the modern. Partially built into a hillock to maximise cost efficiencies, the stadium layout also effectively brings all main facilities together into one area. The stadium features a sweeping crescent-shaped grandstand reminiscent of the headpiece worn on the battle dress helmet of the ruling Date clan during Japan's feudal period.

Located 300 km northeast of Tokyo, Miyagi lies in the central part of the Tohoku region and is home to the J. League second division team Vegalta Sendai. Sendai is a modern city with a population close to one million and is the political and economic heart of the region. It was here during Japan's feudal period that the powerful Date clan built their castle and ruled over the region.

In 1613, the San Juan Bautista set sail from present-day Miyagi bound for Europe. On board were envoys sent by Masamune Date, lord of Sendai, to establish trade relations with the outside world. The group visited several European cities, including the Vatican where they presented a formal letter to Pope Paul V. This enthusiasm and eagerness to look beyond their borders and welcome the world has continued to this day.

Miyagi has much beauty surrounding it with hot springs, mountain highlands and the Pacific coastline. Of particular note are the over 260 islands that dot Matsushima Bay, traditionally considered one of the three most scenic spots in Japan. Miyagi's diverse landscape changes dramatically with the seasons. It is also one of Japan's top agricultural producers, especially in terms of rice, beef and strawberries and also boasts a large fishing trade.

Location: 40-1 Aza-Tate, Sugaya, Rifu-cho, Miyagi

Capacity: 49,291

Parking: 7,000

Access: Located 10 km from the centre of Sendai City / Approx. 11 min. by train on the Tohoku Honsen Line to JR Iwakiri Station and then approx. 10 min. by car.



19. Osaka — Nagai Stadium, Japan

Osaka is located near the geographical heart of Japan. Over the years, the city once known as the "City of Waters" due to its many rivers has developed into the main city of Japan's western half. In fact, Osaka is the third largest city in Japan.

Osaka is developing into a truly international city of the 21st century through initiatives such as the new Kansai International Airport. The city is presently undergoing an architectural renaissance, with aims to become a focus for people, goods and information from around the world.

The Stadium holds just on 50,000 people and is set in the grounds of Nagai Park. The park also includes a secondary athletic field, a baseball diamond, indoor and outdoor pools, tennis courts, a rugby field, a sumo ring, a botanical garden, a natural science museum, and a sports centre for the disabled!

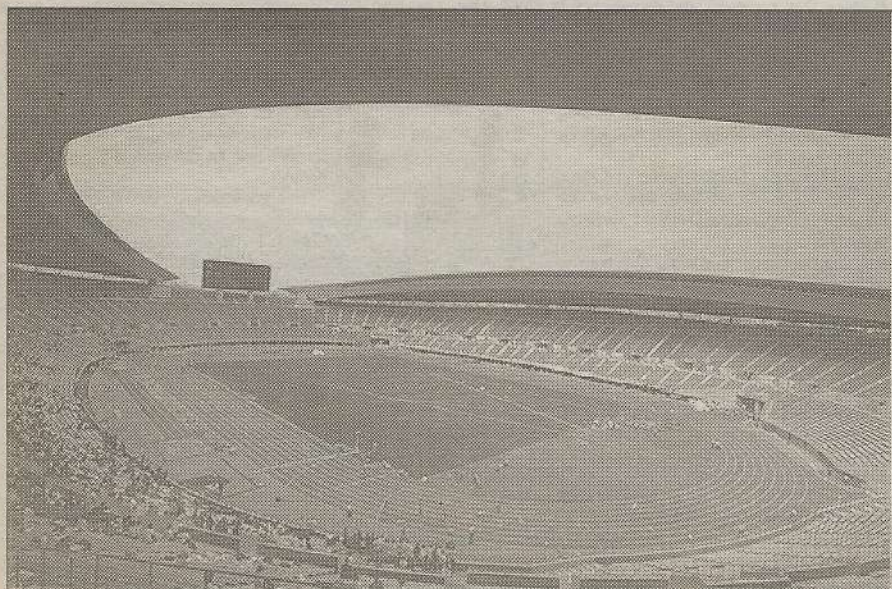
The stadium has no supporting pillars that will obstruct the view inside the ground and its roof covers two thirds of the seating area.

Location: 1-1 Nagai Koen, Higashiumiyoshi-ku, Osaka City

Capacity: 50,000

Parking: 2,500

Access: Located 10 km from the centre of Osaka City / 8 min. walk from Nagai Station on the Midosuji Line (Metropolitan Subway) / 10 min. walk from Tsurugaoka Station and Nagai Station on the JR Hanwa Line.



18. Incheon Munhak Stadium, Korea

Located 28km west of Seoul, Incheon, is the nautical gateway to the nation's capital and the nation's second largest port. Incheon originally developed as a trading port with China and became a famous Port of Call for French, German and American ships during the 19th century.

It has abundant maritime tourist attractions including many nearby islands. The city also is a key producer of automobiles, steel, furniture and glass.

The stadium is bowl shaped and has capacity for over 50000 people. It was completed in December 2001 and this is the first big tournament to be held in it. Matches to be played there are Costa Rica v Turkey, France v Denmark and Portugal v South Korea.

Location: San 8 Munhak-dong, Nam-gu, Incheon

Capacity: 52,179

Parking: 4,559

Access: 5 min. walk from Munhak Stadium Station / 40 min. by car from Incheon International Airport / 60 min. by limousine bus from Gimpo Airport.



20. Yokohama International Stadium, Japan

Yokohama is Japan's second largest city after Tokyo and is the modern day centre of the Kanagawa Prefecture, which adjoins Tokyo. Yokohama traditionally has been an international port and to this day, the city shows evidence of this heritage in the many old Western-style buildings and cosmopolitan atmosphere about town. The city is forging ahead with what it calls the Minato Mirai 21 Project.

The project aims to transform the city into an international, information-intensive, resident-friendly, Twenty-first Century metropolis.

Kamakura, another town just 15 kilometres south of Yokohama but within the same prefecture, was the centre of Japan's government in 1192. But although Kamakura no longer enjoys that claim, the prefecture remains one of the most vibrant in the nation.

Yokohama is the home of the J. League team, the Yokohama F. Marinos. Construction of the Yokohama International Sports Stadium was finished in October of 1997 and it is the largest stadium in the country with capacity over the 70000 mark.

The stadium is seven stories in height and three quarters of the seating area is covered with a stainless steel panel roof. The International Stadium Yokohama is the first track and field stadium in Japan to have a two-tiered grandstand. The front row is the same level as the field to give more spectators a ringside seat for competitions. Routine daily power needs inside and outside the Stadium are partially supplied met by surplus electricity from a city-operated waste incineration plant.

The heating and cooling system is powered by heat pumps utilising the thermal energy of treated effluent from a nearby wastewater treatment plant! For the water needed to keep the natural grass green, the Stadium makes use of rainwater collected from the roof. Wastage of consumable waterworks is further reduced by the use usage of recycled water and rainwater for flushing toilets. It is certainly an ecologically aware stadium!

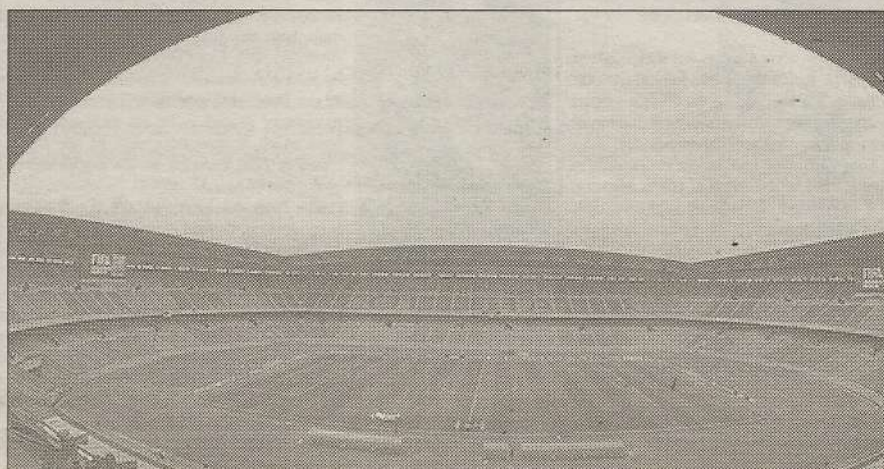
The stadium took two years and two months to plan and 3 years and 9 months to build.

Location: 3302-5 Kozukue, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama City

Capacity: 72,370

Parking: 3,500

Access: Located 6 km from the centre of Yokohama City / 12 min. walk from Shin-Yokohama Station on the JR Shinkansen/Yokohama Line and the Metropolitan Subway / 7 min. walk from Kozukue Station on the JR Yokohama Line / 15 min. walk from Shin-Yokohama Kita Station on the Metropolitan Subway.



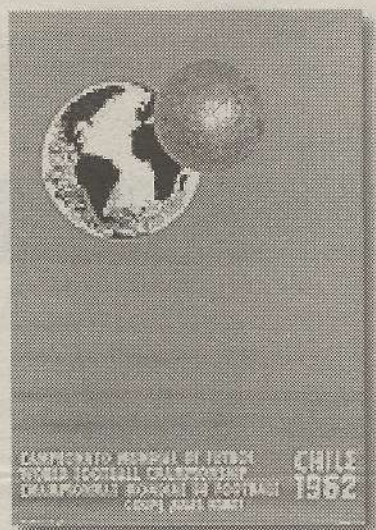


HISTORY OF THE WORLD CUP PART B



Another Brazilian triumph, but Pelé played in only the opening game against Mexico before being injured. Brazil beat Czechoslovakia 3-1 in the final in Santiago with goals from Amarildo, Zito and Vava.

The tournament also staged one of the most notorious matches in World Cup history — the Battle of Santiago between Italy and Chile, in



Chile 1962

which two Italians were sent off and one had his nose broken by a solid left-hook from a Chilean player.

In Chile, at the foot of the Andes, Brazil took off with its second consecutive world title, even with Pelé absent from the team. But this seventh FIFA World Cup is also remembered as the occasion when football became more "physical".

After two consecutive European-based tournaments — Switzerland 1954 and Sweden 1958 — the World Cup returned to South America twelve years after Brazil played host. FIFA's choice of Chile, however, raised more than a few eyebrows as it was believed to be sorely deficient in many areas (stadiums, access roads, capacity) and incapable of playing host to such a large-scale event.

Fifty-six teams — a new record — took part in the qualifying rounds, which saw the elimination of France and Sweden, two of the big guns from the 1958 tournament.

Many first-round games in this 1962 World Cup, such as USSR vs. Yugoslavia, Chile vs. Italy and West Germany vs. Switzerland, were unfortunately marred by over-physical play.

The ugly side of football had reared its head for the first time in a FIFA World Cup competition: all the more apparent because the Brazilian world champions were not really able to deliver their usual scintillating style of play, having problems getting into their stride. And the injury sustained by Pelé against Yugoslavia did nothing to make matters easier.

The star of the 1958 FIFA World Cup finally limped out of the 1962 tournament for good following a muscle injury suffered against Czechoslovakia. Nevertheless, the Brazilians, led by Garrincha and Zagallo, though less devastating than in Sweden, managed to qualify for the quarter-finals, which was not to be the case for Uruguay, Argentina or Italy.

The tournament's emotional high-spot came in the quarter-finals when the host nation Chile defeated the USSR (2-1) and the whole country took to the streets to celebrate.

The Chileans' joy was short lived, however, for in the semi-final the Brazilians proved too strong for them. Brazil therefore qualified for their second consecutive final. Their opponents for the title were to be Czechoslovakia, surprise winners over Yugoslavia in the semis.

The Czechs had already forged a draw (0-0) against the Brazilians in the first round and also miraculously beaten the Hungarians in the quarter-finals, the latter having struck the post no less than four times.

Against all the odds it was the Czechs who took the lead in this final, before the Brazilians equalised two minutes later and then went on to score two more to retain the title: a magnificent feat from a team including nine players who had taken part in the victorious 1958 campaign.

Brazil therefore joined Italy and Uruguay in the honours list as the only nations to have won the Jules Rimet trophy on two occasions. For the moment, at least...

England 1966

Since its launch in 1930, the FIFA World Cup had grown in stature to become clearly the world's senior international football tournament.

After the Jules Rimet Trophy was stolen while on display in London, the hosts triumphed again when it was recovered by a dog called Pickles under a bush in a suburban front garden in south London a few days later.

Pelé was again battered, this time by Bulgaria and Portugal as Brazil's bid for a third consecutive title faltered. England, shrewdly managed by Alf (later Sir Alf) Ramsey, beat West Germany 4-2 after extra time in a thrilling final at Wembley, when Geoff Hurst made history with a hat-trick, including the most controversial goal ever scored. Did the ball really cross the line after bouncing down from the crossbar? The debate still rages.

An enormous popular success in England and elsewhere, the World Cup took on another dimension in 1966. On the pitch, the host nation England ran out the winners, leaving some of their opponents feeling hard done by.

With 16 African nations declaring forfeit even before a single match had kicked off, the 1966 World Cup qualifiers did not get off to the best of starts. The Africans' protest was the result of a new FIFA rule stipulating that the winners of the Africa zone must then beat the winners of either the Asia or Oceania zone in order to reach the 1966 finals.

The Africans believed that winning their zone should have



been enough to go straight through to the finals. This 1964 ruling was eventually overturned four years later in Africa's favour. Meanwhile, with 70 teams taking part in the qualifiers — another new record — FIFA decided that ten teams should qualify from Europe, four from South America, one from Asia and one from North and Central America.

Notable first-time qualifiers were the Portuguese, who reached the finals despite being drawn in the same group as Czechoslovakia, finalists four years earlier. The English, in front of their own crowd and the cameras of the BBC, were, needless to say, among the tournament favourites.

Playing proficiently and without conceding a goal, they won through to the quarter-finals, drawing 0-0 against Uruguay, winning 2-0 against Mexico and 2-0 again against France. But the

big news of the first round was the elimination of the title-holder, Brazil. After beating Bulgaria, Pelé and his team-mates went down to Hungary and then the surprise team, Portugal. And once again Pelé was a victim of over-physical play on the part of defenders. Injured against Bulgaria, he missed the Hungary game before again being carried off against Portugal.

Among those qualifying for the second round were the North Koreans, who surprised everybody by knocking out the Italians and then taking a 3-0 lead over the Portuguese in the tournament's most dazzling match. Portugal fought back and eventually triumphed (5-3), with Eusebio supplying four

of the goals. The rest of the tournament, however, failed to maintain this momentum.

The English, who had the distinct advantage of playing all their games at Wembley, eventually won the title, beating Germany (4-2) after extra-time in the final, and Captain Bobby Moore led this team to the royal box to receive the trophy from Queen Elizabeth II.

Mexico 1970

The ninth World Cup also became a major TV spectacle and to fit in with television company requests, some matches kicked off at 12 noon. This was an unpopular decision with many players and managers because of the intense heat in Mexico at that time of day.

There was none of the violence throughout the tournament that had plagued the two previous competitions. The 1970 World Cup passed without a single player being sent off, equalling the 1950 World Cup record. For the first time substitutes were allowed, as well as yellow and red cards being introduced.

Pelé returned after vowing never to play in another FIFA World Cup and Brazil won the Jules Rimet trophy outright with a near-perfect team including Clodoaldo, Gerson, Rivelino, Tostao, Jairzinho, Pelé and Carlos Alberto.

In the final at Mexico City's Aztec Stadium, Brazil dazzled and danced to a memorable 4-1 win over Italy with Jairzinho becoming the only player to have scored in every match. Italy had beaten West Germany 4-3 in an astonishing semi-final, the only match in FIFA World Cup history to have produced five goals in extra time.

There were three big winners in the 1970 World Cup: the Brazilians naturally, and their king, Pelé, victors for the third time after 1958 and 1962 but also football itself, with many games and individual feats entering football legend.

Those who had been dissatisfied with the standard of play during the 1966 World Cup had nothing to complain about four years later in Mexico, where "the beautiful game" was really seen in all its glory.

Three of the game's all-time greatest matches were played to huge and rapturous crowds: England vs. Brazil, England vs. West



Germany and a simply sensational semi-final between Italy and West Germany.

And nobody will ever forget Pelé and his glorious attempt to lob the Czech goalkeeper Viktor from 50 metres out.

Then, just to top things off, the Brazilians, the tournament's most spectacular team, with their unforgettable front-line of Jairzinho, Tostao, Pelé and Rivelino, ran out winners. For this ninth World Cup, the number of participating nations was again at a new high, with 75 teams entering for the qualifying rounds. And many nations well-grounded in FIFA World Cup experience did not make it past the qualifiers, including Portugal, Hungary, France, Spain and even Argentina. Israel and Morocco, however, made their debuts.

The Moroccans, who became the first African Confederation representative (CAF founded 1957) to qualify for the finals (the first African finalist, Egypt in 1934, had qualified without playing a single match), were one of the star attractions of the first round along with Peru. The Peruvians, in fact, reached the quarter-finals where they held their own gamely against Brazil before finally going down 4-2. But THE match of the quarter-finals pitted the two 1966 finalists England and West Germany. Two-nil down with 20 minutes to go, the Germans miraculously fought back to win 3-2 in extra-time. But a fiercer and even more nerve-racking struggle awaited the Germans in the semi-final against Italy in the brand new Aztec stadium, built especially for the FIFA World Cup.

After 90 minutes the two teams were locked at 1-1. What followed in extra-time has entered football folklore, with both teams leading at different times in a heart-stopping battle.

Franz Beckenbauer remained on the field even with a dislocated shoulder, his arm in a sling strapped to his body. His courage, however, was not to be rewarded, as it was finally the Italians who had their way (4-3), and reached the final.

There, a tired Squadra Azzurra could do nothing to stop the rampant Brazilians, who coasted to a 4-1 win. Carlos Alberto, the "Carioca" captain, stepped up to receive the Jules Rimet trophy, which would remain forever in Brazilian hands. Pelé, in tears, was carried triumphantly on his team-mates' shoulders. He had not only won his third World Cup winner's medal, but also played his last match in a World Cup.

West Germany 1974

Another host triumph as the West Germans took the new World Cup for the first time with a quite exceptional display of the hard-running, interchanging style in a tournament remembered for the arrival of "total football".

The Netherlands, with Johan Cruyff outstanding, beat Argentina 4-0 and Brazil 2-0 to announce their arrival, but could not overcome West Germany in the final and went down 2-1. Gerd Müller, "Der Bomber", typically scoring the winner.

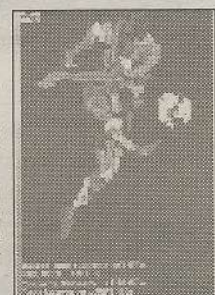
West Germany, after a somewhat shaky start to the tournament, eventually ran into form to win "its" World Cup. In the final, led by the "Kaiser", Franz Beckenbauer, the West Germans were at the top of their game to beat a brilliant Netherlands side.

The 10th World Cup tournament in Germany in 1974 was marked by the arrival of colour television. And as if to highlight this cultural revolution even more, the "Weltmeisterschaft 74" featured two other major changes.

The first was a change in the tournament rules.

The first round group system followed by knock-out in the second round was replaced by a group system in both rounds. The second change was the replacing of the Jules Rimet trophy — won outright by Brazil four years earlier after winning the FIFA World Cup three times (1958, 1962, 1970) — by a new solid gold statuette known as the "FIFA World Cup".

Like its predecessor, the new trophy, sculpted by Silvio Gazzaniga, was coveted by many, and 98 nations took part in the



qualifiers. Notable first-time qualifiers for the finals were East Germany, Haiti, Australia and Zaire, the first sub-Saharan African nation to reach the World Cup proper. But Hungary, Spain, France and most surprisingly England all failed to make it through. As a prologue to its vanguard tournament, FIFA appointed itself a new President, the first non-European, when the Brazilian João Havelange replaced Englishman Sir Stanley Rous, who had held the post since 1961.

On the field, the favourites, West Germany, qualified for the second round, if rather unconvincingly. And following a defeat at the hands of East Germany in the first round, there was even a minor revolution: Beckenbauer, the team captain, was begged by his team-mates to urge coach Helmut Schön to make changes in the team's line-up and tactics.

For the team from the Netherlands, however, which included in its ranks Cruyff, Neeskens, Rep and Rensenbrink, it was all plain sailing as they qualified from both the first and second rounds, beating Argentina (4-0), East Germany (2-0) and Brazil (2-0) by playing the brand of "total football" made famous by the Dutch club side, Ajax. The revelation of the tournament proved to be the multi-talented Polish team which finished third, with its ace marksman Gzregorz Lato crowned as the competition's top goal-scorer (7 goals).

The Poles, however, could not stop the Germans from reaching the final against the Netherlands. The final began dramatically as Cruyff was brought down in the German penalty area following a solo run.

The Dutch took the lead from the ensuing Neeskens penalty before the Germans had even touched the ball and with just a minute gone on the clock, German pride was stung. Maier, Beckenbauer, Vogts — who thereafter stifled Cruyff's influence — Hoenes and Overath soon fought their way back into the game and finally triumphed 2-1 with goals from Breitner (penalty) and Müller. This was the Germans' second world title, twenty years after their first victory in Switzerland in 1954.

Argentina 1978

Having reached the final in 1930, Argentina had to wait a while before winning the FIFA World Cup, which they eventually did on own soil in 1978. The great support for the home team helped carry them to victory over the Netherlands in the final, Cruyff having turned his back as he refused to travel to Argentina because of the political situation.

Argentina were outplayed by Italy in the opening round group games, but charged back to reach the final with a 6-0 win over Peru.

In Daniel Passarella, Osvaldo Ardiles and Mario Kempes, top scorer with six goals, they had outstanding players. They beat the Dutch 3-1 after extra time in the final.

Rarely has the run-up to a World Cup been so filled with controversy as the 11th tournament, held in Argentina. Football, in fact, took a back seat as the powers that be debated whether or not to boycott the tournament in protest against General Videla's totalitarian regime and its violation of human rights. Finally, however, despite a widespread call to stay away, the world's footballing nations all made the trip to Argentina.

All that is, except those that had failed to qualify, such as England (for the second time running), Yugoslavia and the USSR. Other "minor" footballing nations such as Iran and Tunisia had their first outings and France was back in the world's top football competition after twelve years in the wilderness.

But for its reappearance at the highest level, the French team — coached by Michel Hidalgo — made an unexceptional comeback,



beaten 2-1 by both Italy and Argentina. Michel Platini and his team-mates failed to reach the second round despite defeating Hungary 3-1 in their last game.

All the tournament favourites made short work of their first round opponents except the Netherlands, finalists in Germany four years before but now without Cruyff, who had bowed out of the competition. But the Dutch managed to survive and in the second round, led by a rejuvenated Robbie Rensenbrink, they began to show what they were capable of and reached the final by trouncing Austria 5-1, defeating Italy 2-1 and then drawing with the title-holders from West Germany (2-2), who never really got into their stride.

In the other second round group, meanwhile, there was a much tougher struggle between Argentina and Brazil. With the host nation needing to beat Peru in its last game by at least four clear goals, the Brazilians, for a time at least, seemed to have booked their berth in the final. But contrary to all expectations, Passarella and his team-mates put no less than six goals past the Peruvians, including two by Mario Kempes.

This goal avalanche raised eyebrows among even the most casual of observers. In the final, however, Cesar Luis Menotti's men were worthy winners (3-1 after extra-time) over a Dutch side out of sorts again at the final hurdle. Argentina had attained its goal, and in the streets the celebrations could begin... Mario Kempes "A great team effort".

Although Argentina's victory can be put down to the solid team spirit that existed between the players, the talent of one man, Mario Kempes, was also a deciding factor. Like his team-mates, Kempes, no. 10 for the sky blue and whites, began the tournament in low-key fashion, and only found his best form at the very end.

But that was when it really counted. On top of a World Cup winners' medal, Kempes also came away from the tournament with the coveted title of top goal-scorer, hitting the net six times.

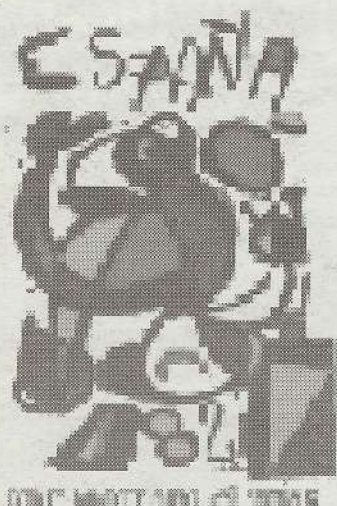


HISTORY OF THE WORLD CUP PART C



Italy survived the opening round on goal difference and then went on to win the trophy for a third time after a creative Brazilian team had bowed out to them in an astonishing match in the second phase.

Zico, Socrates, Falcao and Eder could not stop attacking and Brazil paid for it when they lost 3-2 to a Paolo Rossi hat-trick. Italy went on to the final



and beat West Germany 3-1. Rossi finished top scorer with six goals.

After a laborious start to the tournament, the Italians came alive — thanks to their star striker Paolo Rossi finding his best form — to win their third World Cup. But this World Cup is also remembered for two games that have passed into football lore: Brazil vs. Italy and, above all, a certain France vs. West Germany semi-final.

No nation has ever had so much time to prepare a World Cup tournament. FIFA appointed Spain as the host nation to the 12th World Cup, which would play host to 24 teams rather than 16, as had been the case previously.

Under the new rules, 13 teams qualified from Europe, three from South America, two from Africa, two from Asia/Oceania, two from CONCACAF (Central and North America), and the list was completed by Spain the host nation and Argentina the World Cup holder. Certain alter-

tations were also made in how the tournament was organised, the new format incorporating three distinct phases: a first round with six groups of four teams from which the top two teams qualified for the second round; a second round with four groups of three teams from which the top team qualified from each group; and finally the semi-finals and the final.

Although 24 teams now qualified for the finals, the Netherlands, runner-up in '74 and '78, were not among them—the Dutch having been knocked out in the qualifiers by an impressive French side coached by Michel Hidalgo, which, in turn, only qualified for the second round under duress.

The same first round difficulties were encountered by two other tournament favourites: the West Germans-beaten 2-1 by Algeria-sneaked into the second round following a victory over their Austrian neighbours; and the Italians only made it past Cameroon on goal difference.

But after shaky starts, France, Germany and Italy really came into their own, winning all their second round matches, while England and Brazil foundered — the latter knocked out by the Italians in a stupendous game.

In the first semi-final, the Italians (thanks to two goals by a revitalised Paolo Rossi), proved too strong for Poland in a one-sided game. The other semi-final, however was a completely different story.

This fabulously dramatic but ultimately cruel game has become one of the most talked-about encounters of all time and one which will be eternally regretted by the French. The Germans took the lead through Littbarski, before Platini brought France level with a penalty. In extra-time the Blues led 3-1 but Germany fought back to equalise and then won the game on a penalty shoot-out.

The multi-talented Squadra Azzurra comfortably beat West Germany in the final (3-1), helped by another goal from their inspiration, Paolo Rossi. Dino Zoff, the 40-year-old Italian captain, was presented with the World Cup trophy by the King of Spain, Juan Carlos. And so Italy became, after Brazil, the second country to win three FIFA World Cups.

Mexico 1986

The 13th World Cup was awarded to Mexico, who thus became the first country to host the competition on two occasions.

However, the Mexicans were selected only as replacement hosts after the original choice, Colombia, announced in 1983 that it could no longer afford to stage football's greatest tournament. Terrible earthquakes were the prelude to the tournament, but the stadiums were not affected and it was decided to go ahead with the preparations.

Brazil fell in the quarter-finals on penalties to France, who were in turn muscled out by the West Germans in the semi-finals.

Maradona, with two goals against both England — one a handball he proudly dubbed scored by "the hand of God", the other one of the greatest goals ever scored — and Belgium, led Argentina through and in the final they overcame West Germany 3-2 in front of 115,000 at the Aztec Stadium.

A crushing blow in the form of a violent earthquake killing 20,000 people almost deprived the Mexicans of their long-awaited celebration. Eventually, however, they decided to push ahead.

The 13th World Cup ended in victory for the Argentinians and their master playmaker Diego Maradona. After a brilliant performance against Italy and then raising their game to dazzling new heights against the Brazilians, the French, as in 1982, were brought to a halt by the Germans in the semi-final.

Twenty-four teams took part in the finals, as had been the case four years earlier in Spain. This FIFA World Cup was dif-

ferent, however, in that all the second round games were played on a knock-out basis. With only eight teams not making it through, the first round threw up very few surprises.

A first, however, was Morocco becoming the first African nation to qualify for the second round in a World Cup finals competition.

The French, just as they had in 1982, won many fans due to their dazzling football, and the legendary and universally admired midfield foursome of Platini, Giresse, Tigana and Fernandez wrought havoc among even the best-organised defences.

The "Blues" showed their class in ousting Italy, the world champion, in their second round game, 2-0, before overcoming Brazil in Guadalajara—rather fortuitously but with a great deal of flair—in one of the greatest matches of all time.

Tele Santana's Brazilians twice hit the woodwork and frequently overran Michel Platini and his French side, who eventually won the day largely due to the performance of their goalkeeper Joël Bats — amongst other feats, he managed to save a Zico penalty 12 minutes from time.

The Germans, ever-present in the final, once again stumbled at the last step. Beaten by Italy and Paolo Rossi in 1982, this time they were pipped at the post (3-2) by the Argentinians, led by Diego Maradona, fresh from their 2-0 victory over a plucky Belgian side in the semis. Argentina's victory was as deserved as it was unexpected.

The team was solid but uninspired, and it was a masterful Maradona that virtually won the World Cup for his country single-handed.

His brilliance and goal-scoring prowess (five goals) made him, quite naturally, the Player of the Tournament. The only cloud over the proceedings came in the quarter-finals when he scored with his hand against England. This did not, however, spoil the party in Argentina, where 30 million people celebrated in the streets after the final victory.



celebration.

Italy 1990

A disappointing World Cup with too much dull defensive football and matches won on penalty kicks. The final itself between West Germany and Argentina was the least inspiring in the history of the competition and ironically decided by a late penalty converted by West Germany's Andreas Brehme. Argentina became the first team not to score in the final — and also the first team to have not one, but two players sent off in the final.

Hosts Italy flattered to deceive before losing on penalties in the semi-finals to Argentina. West Germany won the other semi on penalties against England.

The 1990 World Cup was the pinnacle of Roger Milla's career. At 38, he had taken his leave of the big time to play for JS Saint-Pierre, a team of modest abilities on Reunion Island. But he came out of retirement to leave a memorable mark on the Italian World Cup propelling Cameroon into the quarter-finals.

After Mexico in 1986, the 14th World Cup returned to Europe: to Italy, a mighty footballing nation where no expense was to be spared in making the FIFA World Cup a roaring success. Ten of the twelve FIFA World Cup stadiums were given a complete facelift and the other two (in Turin and Bari), were built from scratch especially for the event.

Remembered for the feats of Milla, Schillaci and Goycochea, Italia 90 finally belonged to the Germans. In winning their third title, Germany joined Italy and Brazil as the tournament's most honoured nations.

Even though fewer nations took part in the qualifying rounds than in 1986 (112 rather than 121), reaching the finals proved to be just as difficult. Among the teams that failed along the way were Denmark, Portugal and even France, the 1986 semi-finalists having named Michel Platini as coach to replace Henri Michel.

With the exception of the Costa Ricans, who reached the last 16 in

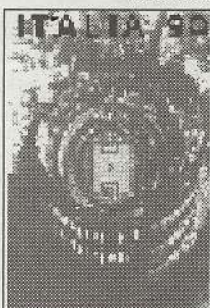
their very first World Cup finals, the first round turned out much as expected.

Three players, however — Roger Milla, Salvatore Schillaci and the Argentinean goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea — all set the crowds alight. Milla, who came out of retirement to play in the tournament, became at 38 years and 20 days the oldest goal-scorer in FIFA World Cup history when he hit the net against Romania (he extended his record in the 1994 FIFA World Cup). A few days later in the quarter-finals, the old "Lion" and his Cameroon team-mates were beaten at the death by England 3-2, after leading 2-1 with ten minutes to go. Cameroon's marvellous display, along with Egypt's excellent performance, did not go unnoticed, and meant that Africa would be able to field three — as opposed to two — teams in the next World Cup in 1994.

A virtually unknown quantity at the tournament's outset, Salvatore Schillaci, better known as "Toto" in his homeland, carried an Italian eleven which, though they played entertaining football, were lacking in finishing power. Schillaci, 25, who played his club football for Juventus, was in such tremendous form — he scored six goals and finished as the tournament's top goal-scorer — that he virtually lifted Italy into the semi-finals on his own. There, however, the Squadra Azzurra went out on penalties against Argentina, having only let in two goals in seven games.

Italy's tormentor was none other than the Argentinean goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea, who came into the side to replace the seriously injured Nery Pumpido (who had a double fracture in his shinbone). As the last man in an uninspired but ever opportunistic Argentinean side, Goycochea proved to be the decisive element against Brazil in the last sixteen, and then again in the penalty shoot-out against Yugoslavia in the quarter-finals and Italy in the semis.

Goycochea could do nothing, however, to stop a very disputed penalty that the Mexican referee awarded Germany in the final. The Germans, nonetheless, with victories over Yugoslavia (4-1), the Netherlands (2-1), Czechoslovakia (1-0) and England (1-1) at full time then 4 penalties to 3, were worthy champions. Well coached by Franz Beckenbauer, who had captained the 1974 West German team, they counted among their ranks Matthäus, Brehme, Völler, Klinsmann, Kohler, and Häßler, all great individual talents. In winning their third title, Germany joined Italy and Brazil as the World Cup's most honoured nations.



celebration.

USA 1994

A superb World Cup marred only by a disappointing final which Brazil won on penalties after a goalless draw with Italy. There were plenty of goals, excitement, drama and surprises. Bulgaria, who had never won a World Cup match in 16 previous attempts, were the biggest upsets beating Germany en route to the semi-finals.

There was drama when Diego Maradona, Argentina's hero of 1986, tested positive for drugs and was expelled from the tournament, and there was tragedy too when Colombian Andres Escobar was murdered days after returning home from scoring an own goal against the United States.

The hosts were not disgraced, going out to Brazil in the second round. The Brazilians were the best team in the tournament and were deserved winners, even if the nature of their final victory left a hollow taste for many.

The Brazilians take it to the wire. In the country where basketball, baseball and American football have far more popular appeal, the 15th World Cup in America nonetheless drew huge crowds. The final saw Brazil win their fourth title after a penalty shoot-out.

It came as a great surprise to many people when the USA was granted the honour of hosting the 15th World Cup.

In Morocco, America's biggest rival to host the tournament, the disappointment was enormous. An African nation had still never organised a finals tournament since the FIFA World Cup was founded in 1930, but with just two stadia they lacked the facilities to stage such a major event. In choosing the USA, João Havelange, the FIFA president, was opening the door to a new frontier.

147 countries — a new record — entered for the World Cup 94 qualifiers. Among them was South Africa, back after a lengthy exclusion. Many big

guns, however, were not to make it to the finals: England, Denmark, the 1992 European champions, Portugal, Poland, and once again France, knocked out by a Bulgarian goal in the last second of their last qualifying game. Also excluded was Yugoslavia, where civil war raged with Bosnia. 24 countries competed in the finals of the 15th World Cup.

Over a month of scorching heat, the World Cup was played in front of a record number of spectators (3,587,538). The first round, where a win was now worth 3 points, threw up a few surprises, with the USA and Saudi Arabia-whose striker Saeed Owainat almost certainly scored the best goal of the tournament—sneaking into the last sixteen. The Russians, on the other hand, despite Oleg Salenko scoring five goals against Cameroon (a record), did not make it. And neither did Roger Milla and his indomitable Lions, though Milla confirmed his "title" as the tournament's oldest goal-scorer, at 42 years 1 month and 8 days.

In the quarter-finals Brazil found itself up against seven-teams from Europe, one of which was Italy, a team that had refused to lie down. The Italians had already died with death in the first round before creeping into the last sixteen. There, 1-0 down to Nigeria with 90 seconds left and only ten men on the field, they did their best Houdini trick yet. Their saviour was the fabulously talented Roberto Baggio, who then went on to help his side beat Spain (2-1) in the quarter-finals and Bulgaria (2-1) in the semi-finals before the Bulgarians had astonished everybody by putting out the holders, Germany.

The quarter-final between Brazil and Netherlands proved to be the match of the tournament, Dunga and his team-mates eventually winning the game 3-2 after leading 2-0. It was in this game that Bebeto, Mazinho and Romario pretended to rock Bebeto's newborn son Matheus, who had been born a few days earlier. This irresistible picture winged its way all over the world.

The final pitted Brazil against Italy, two nations which had already won the FIFA World Cup three times. But what in theory was the ideal match, proved to be a dull, physical and ultimately disappointing game. And for the first time in FIFA World Cup history, it all came down to penalties. As he stepped up, Italy's saviour Roberto Baggio knew he had to score. But his penalty flew high into the blue California sky and the Brazilians were champions again, 24 years after their last success. Brazil had also become the first nation to win the World Cup four times.



celebration.

France 1998

The 16th World Cup was the largest ever, contested by 32 teams with 64 matches played. The eight groups of four teams were spread out throughout France in the ten new or refurbished stadia, with the opening game and the final held in the splendid new Stade de France just north of Paris.

32 countries meant 30 qualifying spots, providing more opportunities for teams from Africa and Asia. The four-team groups also reflected the geographical spread, with all but one of the pools comprising two Europeans, one from the Americas and one from Africa or Asia.

As is often the case with the World Cup, the opening round threw up its fair share of surprises, with certain favourites having to make way for a few unfancied lesser lights in the second round. Spain failed to break their FIFA World Cup hoodoo after a slow start and despite a grandstand finish. Facing a race against the odds after a 3-2 loss to Nigeria in their opener, Javier Clemente's side racked up six goals against the hapless Bulgarians only for Paraguay to beat the group-leading Super Eagles and qualify at Spain's expense.

Colombia also failed to progress, in a group topped by a Romanian side which surprised England 2-1. Scotland and Jamaica had to bow to the likes of Brazil and Argentina respectively in their qualifying groups, but their legion of fans took advantage of the opening two weeks of the competition to spread warmth and laughter throughout the host nation. Morocco also finished the tournament with a tinge of regret, after a last-minute penalty enabled Norway to beat a full-strength Brazil and steal second place in the group from the North Africans.

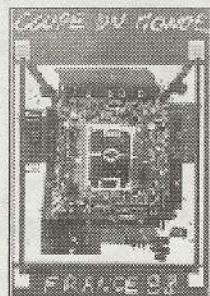
The tie of the last 16 came in Saint-Etienne, where England and Argentina played out an epic contest. The first half will go down in the annals as 45 minutes of classic football — a penalty each in the first ten minutes,

Michael Owen's goal of the tournament then putting the Three Lions ahead before Javier Zanetti finished off a clinical free-kick move on the stroke of half-time to equalise. After the break, goals were replaced by high drama — David Beckham sent off for kicking out at Diego Simeone, Sol Campbell's "winner" disallowed for a foul on the keeper, extra time, penalties... Carlos Roa saved England's fifth and final spot kick from David Batty to see the South Americans through to the final.

Host nation France, meanwhile, were making their way slowly but surely towards their date with destiny. After sporting a perfect record in the group stage, they came up against stubborn resistance from Paraguay and need the first ever (and to date only) World Cup golden goal in the 113th minute, courtesy of central defender Laurent Blanc, to go through. Italy were their next opponents, and this time it was the thickness of the woodwork which came to their rescue. Roberto Baggio flashed a free header past the post in the dying minutes of extra time, then Luigi Di Biagio rattled the crossbar with the fifth and decisive penalty of the shoot-out.

In the semi-final, the hosts found themselves up against the surprise package — Croatia. Entering their first World Cup since the former Yugoslavia had been divided into separate states, Miroslav Blazevic's chequered-shirted heroes upset Germany 3-0 in the quarter-final before stunning the home crowd when golden boot winner Davor Suker gave them the lead after the break against France. Cometh the hour, cometh the man — right back Lilian Thuram chose this moment to score his first, and second, international goals and set up a dream final — hosts France against holders Brazil, who had overcome Chile, Denmark and the Netherlands in the knock-out stages.

Thus it was that on 12 July, "the day of glory arrived", to borrow a line from France's national anthem La Marseillaise. With a header in the 27th minute followed by a second in first half injury time, playmaker Zinedine Zidane sent shock waves through his Brazilian opponents from which they would never recover. Despite being reduced to ten men after Marcel Desailly's expulsion in the 68th minute, the French fortress not only withstood a final pounding from Brazil but even slotted in another goal after a counter-attack from Emmanuel Petit in the last minute. The final whistle from Moroccan referee Belqola, the first African ever to officiate at a FIFA World Cup final, was the signal for the entire population to indulge in raptures of delight. The Champs Elysées alone were awash with over a million revellers dancing through the night.



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NEW SOUTH WALES FOOTBALL

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SUPER LEAGUE FEATURE MATCH



AC United

v



Manly Warringah

By Greg Stock

AC United coach Paul Carter and Dolphins boss Robbie Slater share a lot in common.

Both are former Soccerroo internationals with extensive playing experience in the NSL and both have an impeccable coaching record at Super League level. After ninety minutes of football on Sunday nobody was less surprised than these two to see their teams split the points.

While the game as a whole was a struggle, the points should have been locked in the boot of Slater's car long before the final whistle. After taking an early lead through a Steve Berry strike in the 19th minute, the Dolphins then set about the task of doing everything they could to shoot themselves in the foot. With the likes of the experienced Hamilton Thorpe and Ryan Griffiths the main offenders, Manly missed four clear-cut chances throughout the game as they cleverly found space inside AC United's back third.

With Griffiths and Damien Rosenthal using their pace on the flanks to get on the outside of their opponents, Manly caused a lot of angst for the slower AC midfielders. They continually knocked crosses into the penalty box giving defenders Mark D'Alessandro and skipper Dominic Oliverio no rest.

But Paul Carter is a cagey operator and, like his playing days, he never gives an inch. Introducing strikers Zia Younan and Argi Agyei in the second half, the move lifted the home side who were able to take their best chance of the match via Luke Vincent. Vincent, a former English non league player, latched onto a nod-on from Allan Picken off a long throw and beat Dolphin's 'keeper Tim West with his right

foot strike with just eight minutes remaining in the match.

While AC United were lucky to take the point, football is a game of chances and that thought was not lost on Slater after the match.

"We cost ourselves two points" he said emphatically. "We played well enough today to win, but full credit to AC, they showed enough determination to pick up an equaliser and they deserve their point."



AC United's Paul White in action on the weekend.

His counterpart Carter agreed, "we struggled at times during the game, but we hung in there and managed to get something out of a game we probably shouldn't have."

AC UNITED 1
(Luke Vincent 82')

MANLY-WARRINGAH 1
(Steve Berry 19')
at Abruzzi Field

AC UNITED: Peter Akers, Dominic Oliverio, Mark D'Alessandro, Fernando Pellegrino, Alex Araujo (Zia Younan 59'), Gordon Sutherland, Vincenzo Sansone, Ben Price, Luke Vincent, Paul White (Argi Agyei 77'), Maytham Abdal (Allan Picken 46')
Coach: Paul Carter

MANLY-WARRINGAH: Tim West, Matt Hunter, Phil Moss, Andrew Clark, David Brickell, Ryan Griffiths, Roland Webber, Marc Nicholson (Hamilton Thorpe 48'), Damien Rosenthal, Steve Berry, Jeremy Seales
Coach: Robbie Slater
Cautions: Seales (MWD) 37', Vincent (AC) 77'
Referee: Simon Przydacz
Assistant Referees: Srebre Delovski and Luke Whatt



Manly's Ryan Griffiths evades a strong challenge from Mark D'Alessandro.



SUPER LEAGUE



ROUND 11

Saturday 25 May

			First Grade	Grade 21	Grade 19
Macarthur Rams	v	Fraser Park Jets	7:00PM	5:00PM	3:00PM

Sunday 26 May

			First Grade	Grade 21	Grade 19
Hurstville City CS	v	Sydney University	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Dulwich Hill	v	Rockdale City Suns	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Ryde City	v	AC United	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Manly Warringah	v	MSC Liverpool	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Hajduk Wanderers	v	Stanmore Hawks	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM

ROUND 12

Sunday 2 June

			First Grade	Grade 21	Grade 19
Sydney University	v	Rockdale City Suns	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Dulwich Hill	v	AC United	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Ryde City	v	MSC Liverpool	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Manly Warringah	v	Stanmore Hawks	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Hajduk Wanderers	v	Fraser Park Jets	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Hurstville City CS	v	Macarthur Rams	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM



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NSW Super League



ROUND TEN WRAP-UP

By Greg Stock

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY .2

(Dan Felton 19' Jason McMinimee 63')

DULWICH HILL1

(Samer Nicola 88')

at University No1 Oval

Sydney University picked up a valuable three points with a 2-1 win over Dulwich Hill in what was a hard-fought and entertaining game at University No 1 Oval.

Both teams featured changed line-ups with Dulwich Hill notably having strengthened through the addition of the experienced midfielder Con Paradisis. University welcomed back defender Phil Wurth after injury and it was the Students that were to open the scoring midway through the first stanza.



Jamie Jackson — missing from the Uni line-up with a torn hamstring.

A chipped through-ball caught the visitors back-line slightly flat-footed allowing Rob Smithies to lob over the advancing Daniel Farias giving Dan Felton as easy header into a empty net.

Smithies was again the provider for the second and ultimately decisive goal when he weaved his way through several defenders before laying off to Jason McMinimee to side-foot home.

Dulwich Hill were rewarded for some late pressure when Jean-Loup Rousseau managed to hit a superb volley into the far corner but it was to be too little too late for the visitors. Goalscorer Rousseau and sweeper Andre Glucina were best for the visitors whilst young defender Michael Thwaite impressed for the Students.

ROCKDALE CITY1

(Denis Alilovic 47' pen)

RYDE CITY1

(Mark Williamson 35')

at The Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre

Ryde City almost scored the upset of the season thus far when held to a 1-1 draw with second placed Rockdale away.

The Gunners took the lead in the 35th minute when striker Mark Williamson capitalised on some uncertainty from the Suns goalkeeper to put away a bobbling ball inside the penalty box.

The goal lifted Ryde's spirits and if it wasn't for a penalty put away by Denis Alilovic, Rockdale could well have found themselves on the rack. Begley "the Octopus" Cormack deserves special mention for his lion hearted performance at the back for Ryde who held their more fancied opponents in the front third.

Ben Burrows was also enterprising for the Gunners who have seemingly turned the corner after some ordinary early season form.

FRASER PARK JETS . .2

(Kire Agwu 47' Antonio Faria 52')

HURSTVILLE CITY CS 0

at Fraser Park

Fraser Park continued their push up the Super League ladder with a convincing 2-0 win over fellow contenders Hurstville City Crescent Star.



Angelo Petratos of Hurstville City.

The Jets didn't break clear until the second stanza after the two teams fought out a highly exciting first half, missing a number of clear cut chances.

For the second time in as many weeks Kire Agwu got his side moving in the 47th minute with a well taken strike, while former Northern Spirit midfielder Antonio Faria picked up the game winning clincher five minutes later.

The win pleased coach John Sentas who has taken his side from ninth to third over the past six weeks.

MSC LIVERPOOL1

(Anthony Driene 50')

HAJDUK WANDERERS 0

at Hammondville Oval

MSC Liverpool picked up their first win for season 2002 with a hard fought 1-0 win at Hammondville Oval.

With former Marconi boss Lee Sterrey taking over from outgoing coach Brian Dene midweek, the Liverpool side responded, taking the game to a Hajduk side that really struggled to get out of first gear.

The lone goal came early in the second half, the result of a long throw and deft lob by veteran midfielder Anthony Driene.

But with striker Tim Gledhill well held and experienced defender Mark Reveley hobbling after a nasty leg gash, the Wanderers just didn't have the ability to make the most of their chances in a match that never really reached any great heights.

STANMORE HAWKS . .3

(Tom Pontidas 67' 77' Sam Awad 87')

MACARTHUR RAMS . .0

at Arlington Oval

"It was the best game we have played all year" said Hawks coach Chris Karasis after watching his side thump a disappointing Macarthur side 3-0 at historical Arlington Oval.



MSC Liverpool's Scott Ashton.

With veteran striker Tommy Pontidas throwing himself around in the penalty box like a teenager, and Robert Todorovski back after a lengthy layoff, Stanmore had a couple of lively target men and together they reaped havoc.

Pontidas picked himself up two goals with the third falling to Sam Awad while the Rams with new signing David Reid could do little.

Karasis singled out defender John Theodoropoulos as one of his best in his first game back in first grade while Neil Phillipou and Steve Livais also did very well.

LEADING SCORERS

8 — Robert Smithies (Sydney University)

7 — Hamilton Thorpe (Manly-Warringah), Tim Gledhill (Hajduk Wanderers)

6 — Antonio Faria (Fraser Park)

5 — Steve Berry (Manly-Warringah), Ben Burrows (Ryde City), Ryan Griffiths (Manly-Warringah), Spase Najdoski (Rockdale City Suns), Jean-Loup Rousseau (Dulwich Hill)

4 — Peter Apolevski (Rockdale City Suns), Tanju Balabanel (Hurstville City), Huseyin Bayhan (Hurstville City), Neno Bobos (AC United)

3 — Zoki Adioski (Rockdale City Suns), Denis Alilovic (Rockdale City Suns), Aydin Cetinay (Hurstville City Crescent Star), Orhan Dincer (Dulwich Hill), Neil Phillipou (Stanmore Hawks), Tom Pontidas (Stanmore Hawks), Brendan Salameh (Hajduk Wanderers), Hans Sevgin (Hurstville City Crescent Star), Luke Vincent (AC United), Paul White (AC United), Eric Williams (Macarthur Rams)

2 — Kire Agwu (Fraser Park), Alex Araujo (AC United), David Brickell (Manly-Warringah), Eddie Briscoe (Stanmore Hawks), Ben Deighan (Rockdale City Suns), Yavus Ekinici (Hurstville City), Eric Hristodoulou (Stanmore Hawks), Robert Issa (MSC Liverpool), Steve Jordan (Hajduk Wanderers), Jim Melissourgos (Stanmore Hawks), Luke McDougal (Sydney University), Jason McMinimee (Sydney University), Marc Nicholson (Manly-Warringah), Peter Papoythis (Stanmore Hawks), Robbie Portelli (Ryde City), Ben Price (AC United), Damien Rosenthal (Manly-Warringah), Hans Sevgin (Hurstville City Crescent Star), Andy Stratford (Ryde City), Freddy Umlil (Sydney University), Stewart Van Bentum (Macarthur Rams), Navid Varess (Stanmore Hawks), Trent Worrall (Hajduk Wanderers), Zia Younan (AC United)



Sydney University's Robbie Smithies currently leads the chart.

NEW SOUTH WALES FOOTBALL

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NSW Super League



ROUND 11 PREVIEW

By Greg Stock



Hurstville City CS v Sydney University



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 26th May 2002
VENUE: St George Stadium, Bestic Road, Rockdale.

After an excellent 4-0 drubbing of Dulwich Hill, Hurstville City were held scoreless last week against Fraser Park and will be desperate to turn that form around ahead of the visit of Sydney Uni.

With new signings Tayfun Devrimol and Devrim Huseyin bolstering the squad, which already includes the likes of Angelo Petratos and Michael

Kladis, the home side go into this match as overwhelming favourites.

The Students have picked up a win and a draw in their last two games and have the likes of Rob Smithies and Freddy Umlil to rely upon.

If coach Stewart Porter still harbours any ambitions for a top five finish he must really pull out all the stops this week and pick up three points.



Paul Grochi of Sydney University.



Dulwich Hill v Rockdale City Suns



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 26th May 2002
VENUE: Arlington Oval, William Parade, Dulwich Hill.

Dulwich Hill can't take a trick at the moment and have slipped to ninth on the competition ladder.

After a strong 2-0 win over Ryde City, Dulwich Hill have scored just one goal in 180 minutes of football, conceded six and look largely ineffectual in front of goal.

Signing ex-Berries star Con Paradisis should ease some of those ills but they will have

more than their work cut out when they host the league leaders Rockdale this week.

The Suns have struggled in recent weeks posting a 2-1 loss to Manly and then were very lucky not to be beaten by Ryde City when they got out of jail with a 1-1 draw.

Expect the Suns to fire up again this week as coach Mile Todorovski attempts to get his side going in the right direction.



Andre Glucina: Dulwich Hill's accomplished sweeper.



Ryde City Gunners v AC United



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 26th May 2002
VENUE: Magdala Park Road, North Ryde.

Underestimate Ryde City at your peril. That's the message after the Gunners took a point from the league-leading Suns last Sunday in a showing which was arguably one of their best for the season.

Without the services of sweeper Eddie Giraldo again this week, coach Tony Dunn is expected to shuffle his side in a bid to counter the height and hard running style of his oppo-

nents.

AC United also drew last weekend and have put together a 3 game unbeaten run which has taken them to equal third on the table.

The side is untroubled by injuries at present and is expected to name a full-strength squad with state representative midfielder Allan Picken expected to be back in the starting lineup.



AC United's Fernando Pelligrino.



Manly Warringah Dolphins v MSC Liverpool

KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 26th May 2002
VENUE: Cromer Park, 101 South Creek Road, Dee Why.

The big news in football this week is the appointment of Lee Sterrey as MSC Liverpool coach, replacing the outgoing Brian Dene.

With a string of coaching successes at NSL level with cash strapped clubs, Sterrey has been given the brief to lift Liverpool from the bottom of the ladder. After a morale boosting 1-0 win over Hajduk Wanderers last weekend, the

club is buzzing though an away trip to meet Robbie Slater's Dolphins at Cromer Park is about as tough as it gets.

Slater will have goalkeeper Dean McCreath back from injury but will be without the services of midfielder Danny Townsend for the season, after he announced his retirement from football following on from that knee injury, sustained in the summer Premier League with Leichhardt.



Manly's rookie coach Robbie Slater.



Macarthur Rams v Fraser Park Jets

KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Saturday 25th May 2002
VENUE: Lynwood Park, Rangers Road, St Helens Park.

There is no place better to watch football than Lynwood Park and with the visit of the title contending Jets, there are plenty of great reasons to get along this Saturday night and watch some great football.

With the likes of David Reid, Stewart Van Bentum and Robert Angievski lining up for the Rams, the hosts will give themselves every possible

chance of causing an upset as they try to put a poor start to the season well behind them.

There is also a strong possibility Kain Rastall might be making his club debut while the Jets will look to the likes of Antonio Faria and Adam Snyder to do the damage.

Keep an eye out for striker Kire Agwu who after two goals in successive weeks could prove to be a real hand-



Tony Faria — Leading the way for Fraser Park.



Hajduk Wanderers v Stanmore Hawks



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 26th May 2002
VENUE: Hajduk Stadium, 130 Edensor Road, St Johns Park.

If anybody can work out what is in the water at Hajduk Stadium, can they please tell coach Tom McCulloch!

One week the side plays absolutely scintillating football, the next week they struggle to even get out of their own half.

Losses to Dulwich Hill, Ryde City and MSC Liverpool last week have seen McCulloch go from hero to feather duster while wins over the likes of title

contenders Hurstville City, Manly and Sydney Uni prove just how erratic their form has been. Stanmore will need to be on their best behaviour with coach Chris Karasis predicting a lively contest.

"Hajduk are a very good side and capable of beating any side on their day" said Karasis.

They have a number of key players and we will need to be at our absolute best to give ourselves every chance this week."





NSW Super League

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Scoreboard

SUPER LEAGUE RD 10

First Grade

FRASER PARK JETS2 (K Agwu 47', A Farria 52')	HURSTVILLE CITY CS0
MSC LIVERPOOL1 (A Driene 50')	HAJDUK WANDERERS0
STANMORE HAWKS3 (T Pontidas 67/77', S Awad 87')	MACARTHUR RAMS0
ROCKDALE CITY SUNS ..1 (D Alilovic 47')	RYDE CITY1 (M Williamson 35')
MANLY WARRINGAH1 (S Berry 19')	AC UNITED1 (L Vincent 82')
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY2 (D Felton 19', J McMinimee 63')	DULWICH HILL1 (S Nicola 88')

UNDER 21

FRASER PARK JETS3	HURSTVILLE CITY CS1
MSC LIVERPOOL2	HAJDUK WANDERERS2
STANMORE HAWKS1	MACARTHUR RAMS2
ROCKDALE CITY SUNS ..3	RYDE CITY0
AC UNITED2	MANLY WARRINGAH0
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY0	DULWICH HILL2

UNDER 19

FRASER PARK JETS3	HURSTVILLE CITY CS0
MSC LIVERPOOL0	HAJDUK WANDERERS2
STANMORE HAWKS2	MACARTHUR RAMS2
ROCKDALE CITY SUNS ..3	RYDE CITY6
AC UNITED2	MANLY WARRINGAH2
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY3	DULWICH HILL1



Hajduk Wanderers

SUPER LEAGUE TABLE RD 10

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manly Warringah Dolphins	10	7	2	1	24	11	13	23
Rockdale City Suns	10	7	2	1	21	11	10	23
AC United	10	5	3	2	22	18	4	18
Fraser Park Jets	10	5	3	2	13	9	4	18
Stanmore Hawks	10	5	2	3	18	10	8	17
Hajduk Wanderers	10	4	2	4	17	14	3	14
Hurstville City Crescent Star	10	4	2	4	21	19	2	14
Sydney University	10	3	2	5	21	21	0	11
Dulwich Hill	10	3	0	7	11	18	-7	9
Ryde City	10	1	4	5	11	18	-7	7
Macarthur Rams	10	2	1	7	9	23	-14	7
MSC Liverpool	10	1	3	6	6	22	-16	6

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Macarthur Rams	10	7	1	2	25	16	9	22
AC United	10	6	2	2	20	13	7	20
Fraser Park Jets	10	6	1	3	23	13	10	19
Hajduk Wanderers	10	5	3	2	20	16	4	18
Hurstville City Crescent Star	10	5	2	3	20	15	5	17
Ryde City	10	5	2	3	22	18	4	17
Rockdale City Suns	10	4	2	4	19	16	3	14
Manly Warringah Dolphins	10	3	3	4	14	14	0	12
Stanmore Hawks	10	3	3	4	10	13	-3	12
MSC Liverpool	10	2	2	6	12	25	-13	8
Sydney University	10	1	2	7	15	27	-12	5
Dulwich Hill	10	1	1	8	7	21	-14	4

UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Ryde City	10	7	1	2	28	19	9	22
Dulwich Hill	10	7	0	3	19	9	10	21
Manly Warringah Dolphins	10	6	2	2	25	14	11	20
Rockdale City Suns	10	6	2	2	22	17	5	20
Macarthur Rams	10	6	1	3	24	18	6	19
Fraser Park Jets	10	6	0	4	23	14	9	18
Hajduk Wanderers	10	5	1	4	17	17	0	16
Stanmore Hawks	10	3	2	5	18	18	0	11
Sydney University	10	3	2	5	18	27	-9	11
AC United	10	1	4	5	19	23	-4	7
MSC Liverpool	10	1	2	7	17	28	-11	5
Hurstville City Crescent Star	10	0	1	9	13	39	-26	1



Sydney University



NSW Divisions 1 & 2



DIVISION ONE ROUND-UP

By Paul Goodwin

HURSTVILLE ZCS had a really close tussle with **MOUNT DRUITT** at Hurstville Oval on Saturday, before winding up 4-2 winners, with yet another 90th minute strike from substitute Tony Mihaljevic making sure of the points, as the visitors pressed hard for a second equaliser.

Hurstville had been on top early and went ahead from a powerful header by Pedro Rico, who burst through the penalty area to steer home a Tony Alilovic corner from the far post in the 12th minute.

Mount Druitt battled away and secured a leveller in the 43rd, when a Daniel Dobbie cross from the right was nodded past Robert Mustapic from the far post, by Mallie Vilosa to stun the locals.

Hurstville, however, bounced back inside two minutes to score with a freakish cross-cum-shot from the right that deceived Matt Darwin at the far side and found the top left corner of the net.

In the 61st minute, a ball was played over the top of the defence and Ivan Maric, whose physical presence caused the visitors some concern all afternoon, darted through to steal the ball and plant it past the unfortunate Darwin.

Mount Druitt again hit back, though, Vukosa striking again in the 68th when angling the ball in from wide on the right and it was only a superb display from Hurstville keeper, Robert Mustapic, that denied a strong second half performer like Mount Druitt at least a share of the spoils.

WHITE CITY bounced back from some recent disappointing performances to stun WESTERN RAGE with a 4-1 win at the Calabrian Sports Centre on Sunday afternoon.

Danny Poljak struck after only 48 seconds for the home side after being provided with a through ball to the left and finding the opposite corner of the net.

Poljak then added a second when a double pass, again from Costello de Andre saw the ball stolen by a Rage player inside the box and then quickly regained before Poljak was able to squeeze the ball home well inside the box.

David Blackburn, a 19 year old midfielder, promoted recently from the Under 21s by coach To Mihaljevic, made a left side move, ran into the box and smashed the ball past a hapless keeper in the 41st minute.

A well struck free kick by Danny Poljak hit the post in the 54th and the rebound was then put away by De Andre, but the Rage side with the likes of Sal Zullo and Osvaldo El Ali in its line up, was able to fight back and provide that man Bruno Beddoni with a chance to pull one back in the 80th minute.

WANDERERS CEDARS were able to hang on and defeat NORTHERN TIGERS 2-1 after a close contest on Sunday.

From the start the Tigers boys went for broke. They matched the Cedars tit for tat with misses from Shane Coombes and Daniel Mittiga proving costly.

The visitors paid dearly for those early misses and the Cedars side cashed in.

In the 41st minute Nabil Codmani was able to put the home side ahead and then they went two up in the 43rd minute. Talented attacker Gus Orcajo was again on target for his side after last season's exploits with his team in Second Division.

Fred Mesiti, the Tigers' coach, at half time got the Tigers' players' confidence back and they started the 2nd half determined to redress the situation.

The visitors played better football than the Wanderers and were rewarded when the referee awarded a penalty in the 55th minute which Anthony

Oppedisano converted brilliantly. Further misses from Daniel Mittiga meant that the leaders clung on to win the game and the north shore side went home empty handed.

MT. PRITCHARD continued to put pressure on the leaders, Wanderers Cedars, with a convincing 5-2 win over the plucky HILLS UNITED side at Cook Park.

The 21st minute saw a great cross from Petar Vrlc that went to the far post and when the Hills' keeper failed to collect the Mounties' Rowan Healey, backing up, slotted the ball in via the opposite post.

Two minutes later a Michael

Severino screamer from 30 yards out went pounding into the back of the net to make it 2-0 to the happy home side.

The game was only another two minutes old when another cross, this time from Glen Lowe, to Rowan Healey enabled the Mounties' man to put his second goal past the keeper.

A minute before half time Hills put a cross in that went just over the keeper's hands to hit the cross bar and back into the field of play where Julian Miller was able to find the net for Hills.

Holding a 3-1 lead Mounties looked good for the points at half time.

In the 58th minute a nice ball from Joe Moric found Luke Tomich who scored when the ball went between the keeper's legs.

In the 70th a set move from a free kick to Hills saw Mounties' keeper Michael Hartas get his fingers to the ball, but the ball hit the far post and went into the goal with Damien Nash the scorer for the visitors.

It was not over yet; however, as in the 74th minute a Glen Lowe free kick from 30 yards out went in off the far post. Severino has been among the goals this season and has already accumulated half a dozen of his side's healthy tally.

ILLAWARRA LIONS grabbed a sensational last minute winner to down BELMORE HERCULES at Macdonia Park on Sunday.

Keegan Pillay had opened the scoring for the Lions in the 28th minute and while George Solidakos equalised in the 42nd a strike from Tony Veleviski right on half time allowed the home side to go to the sheds still a goal to the good.

John Manolopoulos then levelled again for Belmore in the 76th and it needed Light's goal in the dying stages to send the home fans home happy at last.

Bathurst had the bye.

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Wanderers Cedars	9	7	1	1	20	12	8	22
Mt Pritchard	9	6	0	3	21	12	9	18
Western Rage	9	4	3	2	13	12	1	15
Bathurst '75	9	4	3	2	9	8	1	15
Hurstville ZSC	9	4	1	4	18	16	2	13
Belmore Hercules	9	3	2	4	10	13	-3	11
Mt Druitt Town	9	3	2	4	9	14	-5	11
Northern Tigers	9	3	1	5	8	8	0	10
White City	9	2	3	4	17	16	1	9
Illawarra Lions	8	2	2	4	15	16	-1	8
Hills United	9	2	0	7	11	24	-13	6

Division Two Wrap-Up

By Paul Goodwin

GREYSTANES began the weekend programme on Saturday with a game against **CAMDEN TIGERS** and a 2-2 draw was the outcome.

Daniel Birrane, a prolific scorer for the home side in recent seasons, was on hand to tuck away a cross moments before the break, but Dean Mackechnie levelled four minutes after the restart.

When Anabalon had Greystanes ahead again six minutes later and the score was the same deep into stoppage time, many would have thought that enough but not Camden who waited until the last gasp of the game to snare a point with a well taken Paul Dallas goal.

NEPEAN ASSOCIATION turned up at a chilly Cook Park for the 7 pm game against **AUBURN STAR** and an excellent crowd was treated to one of the most exciting football games of the season. Nepean took the field to put last week's loss to Bossy behind them, while Auburn were out to prove that they are true title contenders.

The game started at a furious pace and from the outset one sensed that it was going to be a cracker when Nepean took their first chance at goal and were up 1-0 after 5 minutes, courtesy of Glenn McPherson.

In the 17th a shot blasted towards the Auburn goal fell nicely for Nepean's Ulas Avsar who made the score 2-0 in favour of the locals. From this point on the Auburn midfield started to get on top, with the likes of Abbas Saad, Ray Younis and Taner Omac taking control.

It wasn't long before Saad got on

the end of a clever ball from Ray Younis to make it 2-1 in the 27th.

Ray Younis blasted the ball into the Nepean net to make the score 2-2 after a well-rehearsed move from a corner in the 33rd.

Auburn started the second half will all guns blazing.

In the 52nd minute Paul Bourke won the ball on his side of the half way line and went on a rampaging run through the heart of the Nepean midfield.

With the back-line to beat he played a clever 1-2 with Serkan Erel to put Erel one-on-one with the Nepean keeper and Auburn's top scorer made no mistake to put the score 3-2 in Auburn's favour.

At this stage Auburn was attacking the Nepean goal at will and they scored in the 61st when Erel scored one of the best goals of the season with a cheeky back-heel after a well timed low, hard cross from Sarkis Boudaher.

With the score at 4-2 Auburn were now relaxed and playing some brilliant one touch football.

Nepean also had numerous chances with two shots hitting the woodwork and Auburn keeper Anthony Gray pulling off two point blank saves in quick succession.

MINGARA LAKERS entertained SCHOFFELDS, also at 7pm at the Mingara Club. A Shane Cevenini hat trick propelled Schoffelds to a 3-0 win, but it was only in the dying stages that the game was sewn up.

Cevenini opened the scoring with a nice finish to a ball cut back from the byline in the 30th and then added a second when a big through ball from the keeper allowed him to go on and find the net in the 87th. The last goal came after the same

player beat four defenders, before winning a one-on-one with the Lakers' custodian with just one minute left on the clock.

UNI OF NSW were at David Phillips Field again, for the visit of **HOLY CROSS COLLEGE RYDE**, and made heavy weather of a task that looked much easier once they had strolled to a 2-0 lead inside the first half hour.

The students went ahead, after a Vlad Minic header had hit the bar in the 11th minute, with a 20th minute goal from Mick O'Hara.

Uni added to their lead on the half hour when Matt Bowden was on hand to slot the ball away following a scrimmage and after a series of high balls had not been cleared and shots had been blocked twice.

In the 80th minute, when defender Jimmy Barrett handled as he fell in making a tackle inside the area, the referee Heidi Breeze pointed to the spot, Lombardo sticking away the resultant penalty.

Nick Kodomichalos had been denied by the brilliance of the Cross keeper, Lano Puljic, in the 57th as he attempted to score his side's third when through and looking certain to score, but overall it was a contest that fell away as Uni let themselves fall asleep while their opponents took the game to them in the second period.

PARRAMATTA CITY welcomed back **LIVERPOOL BOSSY** back after their bye at Eric Primrose Reserve and it proved to be a goal bonanza for the fans.

The visitors went ahead in the 20th minute from a Fejzovic goal after a break down the left side.

City hit back in the 24th minute with another quality goal to Aaron Murray who weaved through the defence to equalise.

Bossy were then awarded a penalty in the 30th minute which was converted by Abbas to go in at half time leading 2-1.

Parramatta came out blazing in the second half knowing that a result was on the cards. Then, in fine fashion, Joe Tyler made a solo run, broke through the Bossy defence and from just inside the box beat the keeper to equalise within 5 minutes of the resumption of play.

The home side continued to play all-out attack, yet failed to convert numerous chances against a tiring, but determined Bossy defence which held on for the draw.

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool Bossy	10	6	3	1	20	11	9	21
Auburn Star	9	6	1	2	30	18	12	19
Nepean Association	9	6	0	3	24	11	13	18
Parramatta City	9	5	1	3	19	14	5	16
Hakoah	9	5	1	3	21	18	3	16
Schoffelds Spions	9	5	0	4	15	10	5	15
Greystanes SC	9	4	2	3	19	17	2	14
University of NSW	9	4	1	4	15	16	-1	13
Camden Tigers	9	3	1	5	16	18	-2	10
Mingara Lakers	9	1	0	8	6	26	-20	3
Holy Cross Ryde	9	0	0	9	6	32	-26	0

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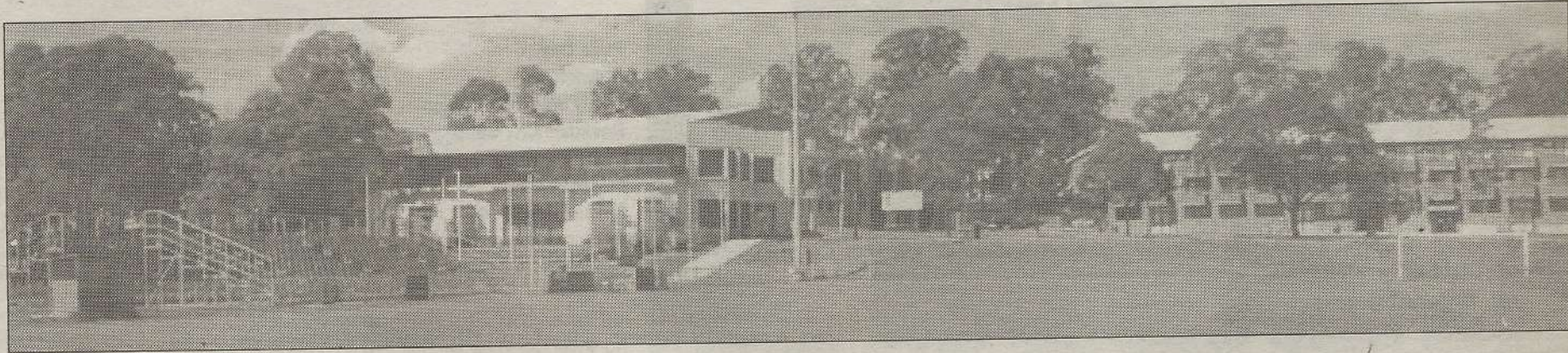
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NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues



PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE R12

Penrith Panthers v Central Coast Coasties

Penrith Panthers continued their climb up the Combined Table, jumping two places to sixth position after they earned seven points from their round of matches against the Central Coast Coasties at Kingswood Park.

The Panthers 13s have moved into fourth place after beating the Coasties 1-0 thanks to a goal from Troy Earp but the visitors soon balanced the books as Scott Imberger scored the only goal of the game in the 14s to help the Coasties to consolidate their fifth placing in that league.

The low scoring trend continued in the 15s where Penrith's Chris Daniels was the only scorer and then the clubs shared the spoils in the 17s with Michael Noro and Richard Benzley netting for the home team and Paul Devitis and Robert Russell replying for the visitors.

Sydney United v Leichhardt Tigers

Sydney United had a tough day at the office when they hosted the better performed Leichhardt Tigers at the Sydney United Sports Centre on Saturday as the visitors went home with nine points tucked into their pockets.

The third-placed Tigers 13s accounted for United with Cameron Rolf supplying the winner in a closer than expected contest. The Tigers 14s edged closer to the top five after Ari Patikas (the son of former Soccerroo Jimmy) and Henry Kanibner scored in their 2-0 victory.

United finally got some joy from the day in the 15s where they recorded a strong 3-0 result to maintain their fourth placing thanks to goals from Anton Pesut (2) and Mitch Long. Leichhardt returned to the winners' circle in the 17s where Robert Younis (younger brother of Ray) scored all four of his team's goals while Andrew Unizar replied with one for the home team.



Craig, Darren and Daniel in action in last weekend's Youth League clash between Penrith and Central Coast.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE R12

Bankstown City Cubs v Ku-Ring-Gai Association

Bankstown had an almost perfect day when they took on Ku-Ring-Gai Association at Jensen Park and they claimed ten of the available points from the matches.

The 13s shared the points in a mid-table clash with Shem Bellerose scoring for the home team and Tim Ransom finding the net for the visitors.

The Cubs 14s then secured the club's first three-pointer for the day with a 2-0 result, the goals coming from A. Hadid and Paul Khoury.

Then Robert Mileski netted twice and Luke Mulrine added another for the Cubs' table-topping 15s as they posted a 3-0 win over the third-paced visitors. In the 17s Ali Hage Hassan and Reid Reyes provided the goals for the home team and secured fifth place as a result while David Knop (yes, he is the son of Soccer Australia supremo Ian) replied with one for the visitors.



Canterbury Marrickville v Bonnyrigg White Eagles

In the battle of the Combined Table wooden spooners Bonnyrigg made the most of their home ground to claim seven valuable points from Canterbury.

The White Eagles' best performed team this season are their 13s and they have moved into the top five as a result of the 3-0 victory they posted on Saturday. Then the Bonnyrigg 14s claimed the points with a 6-0 result over the yet-to-win Canterbury. At that point in proceedings the visitors began to turn things around and they bagged the points with a 2-0 win thanks to goals from Garry Bloom and James Bremmer.

The clubs shared the spoils in the 17s with a 1-1 draw. Canterbury's goal came from Nicholas Fichera.

DIV ONE YOUTH LEAGUE RD 12

Parramatta City v Illawarra Lions

Parramatta City continued their climb up the Combined Table when they took nine points from the Illawarra Lions at Eric Primrose Reserve but the day was not without its share of surprises.

Parramatta's top-of-the-table 13s had little difficulty in dealing with Illawarra as they won 6-1. Eugene Adu Bouteang had a fabulous time, scoring one himself and setting up the other five for Dimitri Papaziforopoulos (2), Duncan Davies, Aaron Tayebi and George Selavas. Troy Stewart-Hoare provided the sole goal for the Lions. Parramatta's 14s continued the good work with a 5-1 win with Shane Arndale providing four of them and Jason Sutherland supplying the other while the Chris Ristevski replied for the visitors.

Matthew Baker and Aroutin Girayosian provided the two goals that ensured a surprise victory for Parramatta over the better performed Lions in the 15s Shane Klocovski hitting the goal for the visitors.

Then the 17s caused a major shock when the Lions stood up to be counted with a 2-1 victory that caused Parramatta to tumble to fifth spot instead of being able to claim a share of the competition lead. Ezequiel Coryez and U15 player Jason Murdezevski netted for the Lions and Daniel Carrozza responded from the penalty spot for the home team.

Mt Druitt Town v Ryde City

This was a disappointing day for Mt Druitt as they lost fifth place on the Combined Table to the improving Ryde City who claimed nine points from the clash.

The visitors started the day very well with a solid 3-1 win, the Ryde goals coming from Brendan Costa, Paul Kollias and Tom McAllister, and they remain only one point from the competition lead as a consequence. This sparked a minor shock as Ryde's 14s managed a 2-1 win over their better performed opponents courtesy of goals from Andrew Bagala and Dean Markus.

Mt Druitt bounced back in the 15s with a very strong 4-0 victory but their joy was short lived as Ryde's 17s hung on to the top spot in their competition thanks to a goal from John Ruggerino.



OVERVIEW

bit of a shock on Saturday when tenth placed Macarthur Rams shared the points with them at Macquarie Field.

The Rams' 13s whacked three past the best defence in that competition and then their 14s claimed top spot with a 1-0 win over the previous

leaders. At the bottom end, Canterbury are nine points behind Ku-Ring-Gai and could face an uphill battle to dig their way out of trouble.

Camden Tigers' lead on the Division One Youth League has been whittled back to ten points and they are being threatened by Schofield Scorpions where head coach Stan Ackerley and his staff will be pulling out all stops to further reduce the difference in the coming weeks. Tigers

secretary Fred Mackechnie and head coach Ian Lloyd told ABSW that they are coming out of a mid-season slump and are back on track for their second title in two seasons.

The fact that they didn't lose a game at Dulwich Hill last weekend may be a very good sign for them. Hawkesbury City appear to be out-classed in this competition at this stage and they will need to put in some heavy-duty overtime to

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE RD 13

Sat 25 May	U13	U14	U15	U17		
Sydney Utd SC	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Southern Branch YL	Sydney United
Brandon Park 2	10:00 AM	1:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Wollongong Wolves	Marconi Stallions
Bates Drive	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Olympic Sharks	Blacktown City
Lambert Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Leichhardt Tigers	Manly Warringah
Seymour Shaw	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Sutherland Shire	St George
Plum Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Central Coast	Parramatta Eagles
Christie Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Northern Spirit	Penrith Panthers

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE RD 13

Sat 25 May	U13	U14	U15	U17		
Lynwood Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	1:15 PM	Macarthur Rams	Blacktown Assoc
Mingara Club	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Mingara Lakers	Hills United
Abruzzi Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	AC United	Newcastle United
Serbian Centre	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Bonnyrigg WE	Hajduk Wanderers
Parklands Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	Canterbury M'ville
Nineveh Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Fairfield Bulls	Bankstown City
Cook Park, St Marys	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Eastern Suburbs	Nepean Assoc

DIVISION 1 YOUTH LEAGUE RD 13

Sat 25 May	U13	U14	U15	U17		
CSI Club	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	1:15 PM	Schofields S'pions	Hawkesbury City
Magdala Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Ryde City	Rockdale City
Macedonia Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Illawarra Lions	Mt Druitt Town
Cook Pk	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Mt Pritchard	Parramatta City
Pratten Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Stanmore Hawks	MSC Liverpool
Ron Dine Reserve	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Camden Tigers	Granville Assoc
Camdenville Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hurstville City CS	Dulwich Hill

PREMIER CADET LEAGUE RD 13

Sat 25 May	U11	U12		
Lambert Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Leichhardt Tigers	Manly Warringah Dolphins
Seymour Shaw	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Sutherland Shire Sharks	St George
Plum Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Central Coast Coasties	Parramatta Eagles
Christie Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Northern Spirit	Penrith Panthers
Bates Drive	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Olympic Sharks	Blacktown City Demons
Sydney Utd SC	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Southern Branch YL	Sydney United
Brandon Park 2	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Wollongong Wolves	Marconi Stallions

SUPER CADET LEAGUE RD 8

Sun 26 May	U11	U12		
Hajduk Stadium	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Hajduk Wanderers	Bankstown City Cubs
Nineveh Field	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Fairfield Bulls	Mingara Lakers
Hensley Athletic Field	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Eastern Suburbs	Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Abruzzi Oval	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	AC United	Hills United
Marrickville Oval	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Canterbury Marrickville	Macarthur Rams

DIVISION 1 CADET LEAGUE RD 8

Sun 26 May	U11	U12		
Ron Dine Reserve	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Camden Tigers	Schofield Scorpions
Bensons Lane	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Hawkesbury City	Stanmore Hawks
Magdala Oval	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Ryde City	MSC Liverpool
Popondetta Park	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Mt Druitt Town	Parramatta City
Macedonia Field	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Illawarra Lions	Rockdale City Suns
St George Stadium	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Hurstville City CS	Mt Pritchard



NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues



RESULTS AND TABLES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 4: GRADE 13: Marconi Stallions 3 Blacktown City Demons 1. **GRADE 14:** Marconi Stallions 0 Blacktown City Demons 1. **GRADE 15:** Marconi Stallions 1 Blacktown City Demons 0. **GRADE 17:** Marconi Stallions 1 Blacktown City Demons 3. **ROUND 12: GRADE 13:** Marconi Stallions 1 Southern Branch YL 1, Sydney United 0 Leichhardt Tigers 1, Penrith Panthers 1 Central Coast Coasties 0, Northern Spirit 0 Olympic Sharks 0, St George 2 Wollongong Wolves 3, Parramatta Eagles 5 Sutherland Shire Sharks 0, Blacktown City Demons 1 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0. **GRADE 14:** Marconi Stallions 0 Southern Branch YL 0, Sydney United 0 Leichhardt Tigers 2, Penrith Panthers 0 Central Coast Coasties 1, Northern Spirit 1 Olympic Sharks 2, St George 1 Wollongong Wolves 1, Parramatta Eagles 1 Sutherland Shire Sharks 2, Blacktown City Demons 2 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0. **GRADE 15:** Marconi Stallions 2 Southern Branch YL 0, Sydney United 3 Leichhardt Tigers 0, Penrith Panthers 1 Central Coast Coasties 0, Northern Spirit 0 Olympic Sharks 4, St George 0 Wollongong Wolves 2, Parramatta Eagles 3 Sutherland Shire Sharks 1, Blacktown City Demons 1 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0. **GRADE 17:** Marconi Stallions 3 Southern Branch YL 1, Sydney United 1 Leichhardt Tigers 4, Penrith Panthers 2 Central Coast Coasties 2, Northern Spirit 4 Olympic Sharks 0, St George 0 Wollongong Wolves 4, Parramatta Eagles 0 Sutherland Shire Sharks 2, Blacktown City Demons 2 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1.

City 1, Parramatta City 1 Illawarra Lions 2, MSC Liverpool 2 Mt Pritchard 1, Dulwich Hill 1 Camden Tigers 2, Hawkesbury City 0 Rockdale City Suns 1. **PREMIER CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 4: GRADE 11:** Marconi Stallions 3 Blacktown City Demons 2. **GRADE 12:** Marconi Stallions 1 Blacktown City Demons 2. **ROUND 12: GRADE 11:** Sydney United 2 Leichhardt Tigers 2, Penrith Panthers 5 Central Coast Coasties 2, Sydney United 0 Leichhardt Tigers 2, Penrith Panthers 0 Central Coast Coasties 0. **ROUND 12: GRADE 11:** Blacktown City Demons 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0, St George 0 Wollongong Wolves 0, Parramatta Eagles 0 Sutherland Shire Sharks 0, Northern Spirit 1 Olympic Sharks 0, Marconi Stallions 5 Southern Branch YL 0. **GRADE 12:** Blacktown City Demons 6 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0, St George 0 Wollongong Wolves 4, Parramatta Eagles 4 Sutherland Shire Sharks 0, Northern Spirit 3 Olympic Sharks 2, Marconi Stallions 0 Southern Branch YL 0.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 7: GRADE 11: Mingara Lakers 2 Hajduk Wanderers 1, Bankstown City Cubs 1 Eastern Suburbs Association 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 AC United 4, Hills United 3 Canterbury Marrickville 0, Macarthur Rams 5 Fairfield Bulls 0. **GRADE 12:** Mingara Lakers 0 Hajduk Wanderers 1, Bankstown City Cubs 0 Eastern Suburbs Association 2, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 AC United 2, Hills United 1 Canterbury Marrickville 0, Macarthur Rams 1 Fairfield Bulls 1.

DIVISION ONE CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 7: GRADE 11: Stanmore Hawks 1 Camden Tigers 2, MSC Liverpool 1 Hawkesbury City 1, Parramatta City 0 Ryde City 0, Rockdale City Suns 2 Mt Pritchard 1, Mt Pritchard 0 Illawarra Lions 1, Schofield Scorpions 5 Hurstville City Crescent Star 4. **GRADE 12:** Stanmore Hawks 1 Camden Tigers 1, MSC Liverpool 4 Hawkesbury City 1, Parramatta City 1 Ryde City 2, Rockdale City Suns 1 Mt Pritchard 2, Mt Pritchard 1 Illawarra Lions 4, Schofield Scorpions 6 Hurstville City Crescent Star 0.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Parramatta Eagles	12	10	2	0	31	9	22	32
Northern Spirit	12	9	3	0	28	10	18	30
Leichhardt Tigers	12	7	2	3	20	18	2	23
Penrith Panthers	12	6	3	3	17	12	5	21
Blacktown City Demons	12	6	2	4	22	10	12	20
Olympic Sharks	12	5	5	2	13	6	7	19
Marconi Stallions	12	5	4	3	19	13	6	19
St George	12	5	1	6	21	24	-3	16
Central Coast Coasties	12	3	4	5	16	17	-1	13
Manly Warringah	12	3	2	7	11	17	-6	11
Sutherland Shire Sharks	12	3	2	7	12	28	-16	11
Wollongong Wolves	12	2	1	9	12	22	-10	7
Sydney United	12	1	3	8	8	19	-11	6
Southern Branch YL	12	1	2	9	10	35	-25	5

GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Northern Spirit	12	9	2	1	45	13	32	29
Olympic Sharks	12	8	3	1	35	10	25	27
Blacktown City Demons	12	8	2	2	24	9	15	26
Marconi Stallions	12	7	4	1	24	11	13	25
Central Coast Coasties	12	6	2	4	18	21	-3	20
Leichhardt Tigers	12	5	2	5	10	22	-12	17
Penrith Panthers	12	4	3	5	13	13	0	15
Sutherland Shire Sharks	12	4	3	5	11	18	-7	15
Sydney United	12	3	3	6	19	22	-3	12
Parramatta Eagles	12	2	5	5	14	18	-4	11
Manly Warringah	12	2	2	7	7	21	-14	8
St George	12	2	2	8	12	26	-14	8
Wollongong Wolves	12	2	2	8	13	21	-8	8
Southern Branch YL	12	1	2	9	10	30	-20	5

GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Olympic Sharks	12	11	1	0	47	6	41	34
Marconi Stallions	12	10	1	1	31	7	24	31
Parramatta Eagles	12	8	1	3	33	14	19	25
Sydney United	12	7	3	2	22	8	14	24
Wollongong Wolves	12	8	0	4	25	14	11	24
Blacktown City Demons	12	7	1	4	22	9	13	22
Northern Spirit	12	6	2	4	23	15	8	20
Penrith Panthers	12	5	0	7	9	30	-21	15
Sutherland Shire Sharks	12	4	2	6	10	16	-6	14
Central Coast Coasties	12	3	2	7	15	16	-1	11
Southern Branch YL	12	3	1	8	5	23	-18	10
Leichhardt Tigers	12	3	0	9	6	44	-38	9
Manly Warringah Dolphins	12	2	0	10	6	28	-22	2
St George	12	2	0	10	4	28	-24	2

GRADE 17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City Demons	12	11	0	1	31	11	20	33
Wollongong Wolves	12	8	1	3	23	8	15	25
Sutherland Shire Sharks	12	8	0	4	20	20	0	24
Northern Spirit	12	7	2	3	22	9	13	23
Olympic Sharks	11	7	0	4	24	16	8	21
Penrith Panthers	12	6	3	3	23	17	6	21
Leichhardt Tigers	12	5	1	6	29	19	10	16
Marconi Stallions	12	5	0	7	18	24	-6	15
Parramatta Eagles	12	4	2	6	12	17	-5	14
Sydney United	12	4	1	7	20	21	-1	13
Central Coast Coasties	12	3	4	5	10	19	-9	13
Manly Warringah	12	3	0	9	12	24	-12	9
Southern Branch YL	11	2	3	6	17	33	-16	9
St George	12	1	1	10	12	35	-23	4

COMBINED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Olympic Sharks	47	31	9	7	119	38	81	102
Northern Spirit	48	31	9	8	118	47	71	102
Blacktown City Demons	48	32	5	11	99	39	60	101
Marconi Stallions	48	27	9	12	92	55	37	90
Parramatta Eagles	48	24	10	14	90	58	32	82
Penrith Panthers	48	21	18	18	62	72	-10	72
Wollongong Wolves	48	20	5	23	73	65	8	65
Leichhardt Tigers	48	20	5	23	65	103	-38	65

Sutherland Shire Sharks 48 19 7 22 53 82-29 64
Central Coast Coasties 48 15 12 21 59 73-14 57
Sydney United 48 15 10 23 69 70-1 55
Manly Warringah 48 9 6 33 36 90-54 33
St George 48 8 8 32 49 113-64 32
Southern Branch YL 47 7 8 32 42 121-79 29

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Nepean Assoc	12	10	2	0	48	9	39	32
Newcastle United	12	8	3	1	33	7	26	27
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	12	7	3	2	34	17	17	24
Macarthur Rams	12	8	0	4	35	20	15	24
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	12	7	1	4	26	22	4	22
Mingara Lakers	12	7	1	4	12	19	-7	22
Fairfield Bulls	12	6	1	5	29	30	-1	19
Bankstown City Cubs	12	4	4	4	10	17	-7	16
Hajduk Wanderers	12	3	4	5	18	29	-11	13
Blacktown Assoc	12	4	1	7	11	24	-13	13
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	12	2	3	7	8	18	-10	9
AC United	12	1	3	8	15	28	-13	6
Canterbury Marrickville	12	1	3	8	12	35	-23	6
Hills United	12	0	3	9	4	20	-16	3

GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Macarthur Rams	12	10	1	1	36	4	32	31
Newcastle United	12	9	2	1	30	7	23	29
AC United	12	8	3	1	31	10	21	27
Blacktown Assoc	12	8	2	2	29	11	18	26
Nepean Assoc	12	6	2	4	17	16	1	20
Hajduk Wanderers	12	6	1	5	19	21	-2	19
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	11	5	1	5	22	23	-1	16
Bankstown City Cubs	12	4	3	5	17	20	-3	15
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	11	3	4	4	12	14	-2	13
Fairfield Bulls	12	3	3	6	15	25	-10	12
Hills United	12	3	1	8	15	24	-9	10
Mingara Lakers	12	2	4	6	6	17	-11	10
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	12	1	1	10	10	33	-23	4
Canterbury Marrickville	12	0	2	10	3	37	-34	2

GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Bankstown City Cubs	12	11	1	0	32	3	29	34
Newcastle United	12	8	3	1	35	9	26	27
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	12	6	3	3	24	13	11	21
Hills United	12	6	2	4	26	18	8	20
AC United	12	5	3	4	24	19	5	18
Fairfield Bulls	12	5	3	4	19	21	-2	18
Mingara Lakers	12	4	3	5	20	26	-6	1
Canterbury Marrickville	12	4	3	5	12	22	-10	15
Blacktown Assoc	12	3	5	4	14	15	-1	14
Nepean Assoc	12	3	5	4	16	21	-5	14
Hajduk Wanderers	12	1	8	3	16	23	-7	11
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	12	2	3	7	16	27	-11	9
Macarthur Rams	12	1	3	8	12	25	-13	6
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	12	1	3	8	5	29	-24	6



GRADE 17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Newcastle United	12	11	1	0	56	12	44	34
Hills United	12	10	1	1	28	6	22	31
Mingara Lakers	12	8	2	2	30	12	18	26
AC United	12	7	3	2	27	14	13	24
Bankstown City Cubs	12	7	2	3	29	20	9	23
Fairfield Bulls	12	6	2	4	27	26	1	20
Hajduk Wanderers	12	5	2	5	27	26	1	17
Canterbury Marrickville	12	3	4	5	15	24	-9	13
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	12	4	1	7	17	27	-10	13
Macarthur Rams	12	2	3	7	22	39	-17	9
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	12	2	2	8	19	32	-13	8
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	12	2	2	8	11	30	-19	8
Blacktown Assoc	12	2	1	9	10	33	-23	7
Nepean Assoc	12	1	2	9	15	32	-17	5

COMBINED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Newcastle United	48	36	9	3	154	35	119	117
Bankstown City Cubs	48	26	10	12	88	60	28	88
AC United	48	21	12	15	97	71	26	75
Mingara Lakers	48	21	10	17	68	74	-6	73
Nepean Assoc	48	20	11	17	96	78	18	71
Macarthur Rams	48	21	7	20	105	88	17	70
Fairfield Bulls	48	20	9	19	90	102	-12	69
Hills United	48	19	7	22	73	68	5	64
Hajduk Wanderers	48	15	15	18	80	99	-19	60

Blacktown Assoc 48 17 9 22 64 83-19 60
Eastern Suburbs Assoc 47 14 12 21 73 88-15 54
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 47 15 7 25 72 106-34 52
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 48 13 8 27 59 91-32 47
Canterbury Marrickville 48 8 12 28 42 118-76 36



DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Parramatta City	12	9	2	1	45	10	35	29
Ryde City	12	8	4	0	34	11	23	28
Schofields Scorpions	12	8	3	1	42	11	31	27
Hurstville City CS	12	8	1	3	30	16	14	25
Camden Tigers	12	7	3	2	33	14	19	24
Granville Assoc	12	6	2	4	24	10	14	20
Illawarra Lions	12	4	5	3	25	20	5	17



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GRASS ROOTS SOCCER

The competition season is now in full swing with over 125,000 players competing each weekend where the main aim of their game is to win!

Well not quite everyone.

I was in attendance at the local under six match last weekend where it was played in a spirited manner.

A one-sided affair it was, but after the game I watched a player from the losing side run over to

his mother with a wide smile on his face asking her if they won, it didn't matter who won, he'd enjoyed the game anyway.

Our State Amateur Competitions have commenced for season 2002, and first up are the State, Robertson and Amateur Cups.

These are exciting knock-out tournaments and with a total of 211 teams entered there is no doubt the competition at each round will be fierce.

Played at various grounds the State Cup is for

U14, U16, U18 and All Age Women, the Robertson Cup is for U21 Association teams and the Amateur Cup is one of the most competitive All Age Men's tournaments in the country.

The next round of the State, Robertson and Amateur Cups will be played on 2nd June.

For fixtures, results and tables on the SRA Cup tournaments visit our website

www.nswasf.com.au

CLUBS BENEFIT FROM WEARHOUSE

The NSW Amateur Soccer Federation's official club supply shop, 'The Soccer Wearhouse', is now offering monthly specials to clubs who deal with them direct.

The response to our special offer on REAL 'Item' size 5 balls at \$11.80 has been terrific so the Wearhouse has decided to also offer Mitre balls at special prices for the rest of May.

MITRE CLUB SPECIALS

'ULTIMATCH'	- Size 5	\$37.80 + gst
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'X-TREME'	- Size 5	\$31.50 + gst
'ULTIMA 26'	- Sizes 3,4,5	\$25.50 + gst
'MONARCH'	- Sizes 3,4,5	\$22.80 + gst

Prices until 31-5-2002 and applicable to Club orders only.

To Order phone:

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"FAIRFIELD PATRICIAN BROTHERS U21 TEAM"

Front Row: (L-R) V. Pavez, M. Ravkin, A. Spagnolo, J. Maniscalco, R. Sandoval, E. Castro, A. Zraika.

Second Row: R. Spagnolo (coach), G. McCarron (Mgr), B. Panagis, I. Stoimenovski, P. Sandoval (mgr).

Third Row: D. Mansueto, G. Anorga, O. Valderrama, J. Dundovic, J. Tigani, J. Clemente, A. Capano.

CLUB OF THE WEEK

FAIRFIELD PATRICIAN BROTHERS SOCCER CLUB

The Fairfield Patrician Brothers Soccer club was established in 1974 and in its inaugural year entered two teams in Southern Districts Soccer Football competitions.

Whilst the Fairfield area was rich in other sporting codes, the growth in the area and multicultural diversity saw a huge shift to soccer in the city and the Club began to boom and grow with the inflow of soccer enthusiasts.

The amalgamation of OLR soccer teams into Fairfield Patrician Brothers in 1988 brought about the growth of the Club into one of the Districts' largest and most successful clubs, fielding 20 teams.

The growth of the Club continued and All Age teams were added in 1988 and junior ladies and all age ladies were to follow.

Throughout the years the spirit of the Brothers has ensued, and over the seasons, the dedication of successive committees has laid the foundations on which the Club could continue to provide a place for the youth of the district, in a worthwhile sport, and retain the camaraderie that many formed at various schools throughout the area.

Success for the Brothers followed and there have been many premiership victories in the SDSFA competitions for the Club and success also on the representa-

tive road as well, with the 1996 Grade 14 and Grade 16 both winners of the NSWASF State Cup competitions. In 1999 the Grade 13 and Grade 17 Metropolitan Cups were also to travel to Fairfield. The biggest prize was the success of the Club's Grade 21 in the Champion of Champions in 2001 (pictured above).

In 2002 the Club boasts a membership of 450 players in 31 teams from Nursery 6 to Premier League and a coaching staff of 61 coaches and managers. With soccer continuing to boom in the area, the success of this club and its players will certainly continue into the future!

NEW REGIONAL COACHING MANAGER FOR CENTRAL COAST

Well respected former NSL player and NSW Sapphires Coach, Allan Bourke, has been appointed as the new NSWASF Regional Coaching Manager for Central Coast.

Recently completing one of the most successful seasons of his coaching career, Bourke steered the NSW Sapphires women's team to the League Championship title in the Women's National Soccer League. While with the Sapphires he enjoyed a successful stint as head coach of the NSW Institute of Sport for women.

He was also assistant coach to

Rale Rasic for the Parramatta Eagles in the NSL in 1994 and has spent many years on the staff at the NSWSE.

Bourke is well known on the Central Coast, having coached the Central Coast Coasties from 1997 to 1999 and this year has signed as first grade coach for the Mingara Lakers Soccer Club.

In his position as Regional Coaching Manager for NSWASF Central Coast Association, Bourke's role will include running an elite academy for talented players and conducting recognised coaching courses for Central Coast based coaches.

JUNIOR LEAGUE FIXTURES

ROUND 10

DATES	TEAMS	AGE	GROUND	TIME
Sunday 26 May	Blacktown v Bankstown	11	Francis Park	09:00
Sunday 26 May	Central Coast v Sutherland	11	Plum Park	10:00
Sunday 26 May	Nepean v Granville	11	Cook Pk.	10:00
Sunday 26 May	Highlands v Ku-Ring-Gai	11	Yerrinbool Oval	10:00
Sunday 26 May	Blacktown v Bankstown	12	Francis Park	10:00
Sunday 26 May	Central Coast v Sutherland	12	Plum Park	11:00
Sunday 26 May	Nepean v Granville	12	Cook Pk.	11:00
Sunday 26 May	Highlands v Ku-Ring-Gai	12	Yerrinbool Oval	11:00

NSWASF Competition Information visit
www.nswasf.com.au

Croatia came third in the last World Cup but their dip since then has been a less than graceful one. Mexico struggled to qualify for this finals series. Ecuador did remarkably well in the South American qualifiers and make their World Cup debut. Italy, despite the constant criticism from at home over the last few years, remain favourites to progress. In the end the Italians would be disappointed to go through without having collected all nine points. As for the other three teams second spot really is up for grabs.

HEAD TO HEAD PREVIEW

Croatia v Mexico - Croatia and Mexico are both looking to turn around fairly poor years. Croatia won their first match last tournament 3-1 whilst Mexico won by the same scoreline against South Korea. It will be a close thing but the Europeans could snatch a late winner.

Italy v Ecuador - Not the easiest of matches to start with in the finals, especially if this is your first ever game in the final stage of the World Cup. Italy should win comfortably.

Italy v Croatia - Italy should win this one as well. Croatia have experience from the last campaign but face a real test of their character here. One of their victories last time was Germany (winning 3-0), they will be hoping for an even bigger upset this time around.

Mexico v Ecuador - Two fairly close neighbours and much pride will be a stake in this game, as well as a possible round of 16 spot. Ecuador could pull off a shock in this match and set up a crunch game against Croatia in the last group match.

Mexico v Italy Of all the World Cup final appearances these two have only met head to head twice. The first match in 1970 was comprehensively won by Italy 1-4. The second match was in 1994 and in a surprise Mexico held the Italians to a 1-1 draw thereby qualifying both sides for the next round. Italy are more than likely to finish closer to the 1970 scoreline rather than the 1994 one.

Ecuador v Croatia Croatia finished poorly in their group games in their first World Cup finals last time around. Ecuador will be hoping to already have picked up points coming into this match. If Italy do defeat Mexico this could be the showdown for runners up spot in the group.



CROATIA



Croatia were the surprise packets last time by finishing third. This time around though they are written off once again by most pundits, that is despite the fact they went undefeated in their qualifying group. The critics point to the fact that this squad is a lot older and stars like Davor Suker have hardly played in the last couple of years. Still the sportsmen and women of this nation are very proud and will overcome the odds to gain victory, look at Goran Ivanisevic. Perhaps there could be another Wimbledon for Croatian sport but this time in Japan and South Korea.

Croatia:

Achievements in Major Competitions
3rd World Cup 1998

Qualified:

Won European Group 6 Pld 8 W 5 D 3 L 0 F 15
A 2 Pts 18 (Against Belgium, Scotland, Latvia and San Marino.)

Schedule

Croatia v Mexico Niigata 16:00 AEST Monday
3rd June (SBS)



Croatian Squad.

Croatia v Italy Ibaraki 19:00 AEST Saturday
8th June (Nine) TBC

Croatia v Ecuador Yokohama 23:30 AEST
Thursday 13th June (SBS) Delayed telecast
time

Finals record:

Croatia PLD 7 W6 D0 L1 F11 A5 Total Points
in group stages 6 (at Half time F5 A3) No
penalty shootouts

A Country Profile: Republic of Croatia

Population: 4,676,865
Form of Govt: Republic
Population density: 82.7 per square km
Life expectancy: 74
Infant Mortality: 7.8 (per 1000)
Language: Croatian
Literacy Rate: 97%
Religion: Catholic 76.5%
Economy: Industry 31%, Agriculture 4%,
Services 65%

Odds: \$81 (as of Beginning April 2002
Sportodds)



MEXICO



At one stage it looked as though the Mexicans may not qualify for the first time since 1990 however they managed to pull themselves out of that hole. They have qualified for the second round the last three times they have been in the finals and will be looking to repeat that again this time around.

Mexico

Achievements in Major Competitions
— Champions Concacaf Gold Cup 1993, 1996,
1998
— Champions FIFA Confederations Cup 1999

Qualified:

Runners Up in the final round of Concacaf.
Pld 10 W 5 D 2 L 3 F 16 A 9 Pts 17 (other teams
in the group were Costa Rica, USA, Honduras,
Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.)

Schedule:

Mexico v Croatia Niigata 16:00 AEST Monday 3rd
June (SBS)
Mexico v Ecuador Miyagi 16:00 AEST Sunday 9th



Mexican Squad.

June (SBS)

Mexico v Italy Oita 21:20 AEST Thursday 13th
June (SBS)

Finals record: Mexico PLD 37 W8 D8 L21 F39
A75 Total Points in group stages: 24
(at half time F 14 A 34)

Penalty shoot outs: F 2 A 7.

Mexico

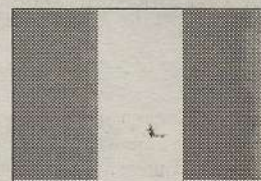
A Country Profile: United Mexican States
Population: 100,294,036
Form of Govt: Federal Republic
Population density: 50.8 per square km
Life expectancy: 72
Infant Mortality: 24.6 (per 1000)
Language: Spanish
Literacy Rate: 89.2%
Religion: Roman Catholic 93%
Economy: Industry 20%, Agriculture 23%,
Services 57%

Odds:

\$81 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



ITALY



The Italians live for the World Cup. Their supporters are passionate right throughout the World when it comes to the national team. On paper they have had stronger teams before but that does not mean much once on the pitch. For the likes of Maldini this is their last shot at the holy grail. One thing is for sure Italian hearts will flutter should they face another penalty shoot out having gone out of the last two World Cups in this fashion. They had a fairly easy time qualifying and were undefeated during this time of qualifiers.

Achievements in Major Competitions

- Champion 1934 FIFA World Cup
- Champion 1938 FIFA World Cup
- Champion 1982 FIFA World Cup
- 2nd 1970 FIFA World Cup
- 4th 1978 FIFA World Cup
- 3rd 1990 FIFA World Cup
- 2nd 1994 FIFA World Cup
- Quarter-final 1998 FIFA World Cup
- Champion UEFA European Championship 1968
- 4th UEFA European Championship 1980
- 3rd UEFA European Championship 1984
- 2nd UEFA European Championship 2000
- Champion Olympic Football Tournament 1936

Qualified:

Winners European Group 8: PLD 8 W 6 D 2 L 0 F 16 A 3 Pts 20 (against Romania, Georgia, Hungary and



Italian Squad.

Lithuania.)

Schedule:

Italy v Ecuador Sapporo 21:30 AEST Monday 3rd June (Nine) TBC
Italy v Croatia Ibaraki 19:00 AEST Saturday 8th June (Nine) TBC
Italy v Mexico Oita 21:20 AEST Thursday 13th June (SBS)

Finals record:

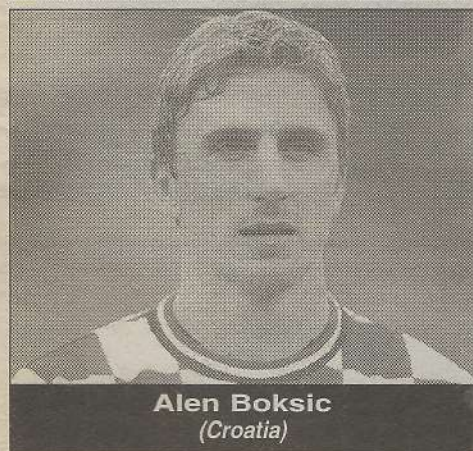
Italy PLD 66 W38 D13 L15 F105 A62 Total Points in group stages: 51 (at half time F 47 A 20) Penalty Shootouts: F6 A8

A Country Profile: Italian Republic

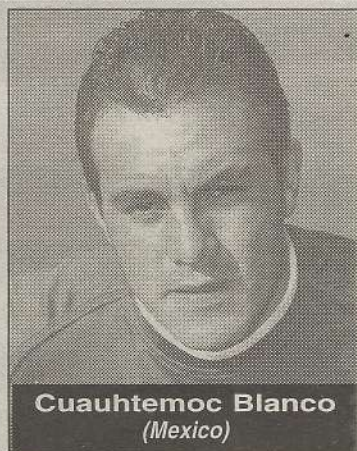
Population: 56,735,130
Form of Govt: Republic
Population density: 188.3 per square km
Life expectancy: 78.5
Infant Mortality: 6.3 (per 1000)
Language: Italian
Literacy Rate: 98.1%
Religion: Roman Catholic 98%
Economy: Industry 20%, Agriculture 9%, Services 71%

Odds:

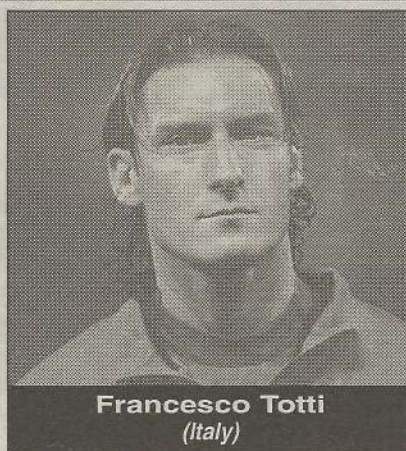
\$7 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



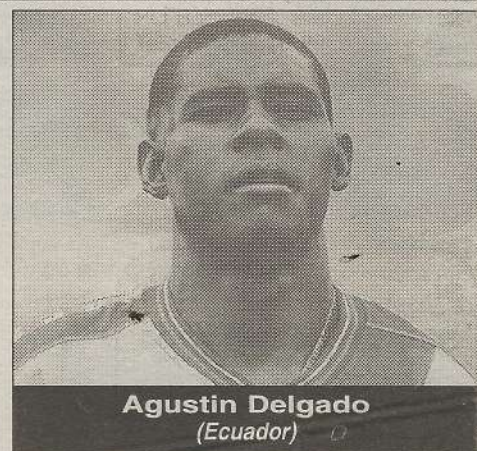
Alen Boksic
(Croatia)



Cuauhtemoc Blanco
(Mexico)



Francesco Totti
(Italy)



Agustin Delgado
(Ecuador)



ECUADOR



Debuting in the World Cup finals may not be enough for this team. They have seen off some tough opponents in the qualifiers and will be primed to represent the Americas with honour. Their opening match against Italy will be a real test but should they manage something from it then they could progress to the latter rounds. Their history is not full of football success but they are hopignn to change this in 2002.

Achievements in Major Competitions

- Copa America 4th place 1993

Qualified:

South American Group finished Runners Up. Pld 18 W 9 D 4 L 5 F 23 A 20 Pts 31.

Schedule:

Ecuador v Italy - Sapporo 21:30 AEST Monday 3rd June (Nine) TBC
Ecuador v Mexico - Miyagi - 16:00 AEST -



Ecuador Squad.

Sunday 9th June (SBS)

Ecuador v Croatia - Yokohama 23:30 AEST - Thursday 13th June (SBS) Delayed telecast time

Finals record:

This is Ecuador's debut in the World Cup finals.

A Country Profile: Republic of Ecuador

Population: 12,562,496
Form of Govt: Republic
Population density: 44.3 per square km
Life expectancy: 72.2
Infant Mortality: 30.7 (per 1000)
Language: Spanish
Literacy Rate: 89.6%
Religion: Roman Catholic 95%
Economy: Industry 19%, Agriculture 39%, Services 42%

Odds:

\$67 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)

Japan, still looking for their first win in the finals in only their second attempt, come in on a huge wave of expectation and nationalistic fervour but one can only see this excitement disappointed. Belgium disappointed in the qualifiers only coming through the play offs whilst Russia managed seven wins from their ten starts, conceding only five goals. Both teams should be strong in the finals. The other team in this group are Tunisia and although making their second appearance in a row are not seen as serious challengers. It should be the two European teams that dominate this group.

HEAD TO HEAD PREVIEW

Japan v Belgium: Japan come into this match looking to start strongly. On current form Belgium is the weaker of the two European sides in this group and the Japanese could manage a draw. However the locals know if they do manage to beat Belgium then they could be set for a historic visit to the second round, even at this early stage. They would also know the last time Belgium played in the finals they drew 1-1 – with South Korea!

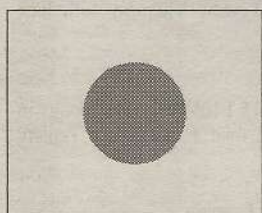
Russia v Tunisia: Despite Russia not having qualified last time around and Tunisia doing so the former Soviet nation are big favourites in this game. Tunisia have never defeated European competition in the finals although they have drawn notched up against West Germany (1978) and Romania (1998). Russia's last match in the finals was a 6-1 thrashing of Cameroon (1994).

Japan v Russia: Japan face their biggest threat against the Russians. They may well be flooding their defence and play for a draw to maximise their opportunities of playing in the next phase.

Tunisia v Belgium: Belgium should be too strong for Tunisia. The sides have never met in the finals before. Since 1982 the Belgium team have not lost the middle game of the group stage and only once have they drawn the match – that game being against Mexico in the last World Cup finals.

Tunisia v Japan: This would have to be Japan's best chance of getting a point out of the finals. Last World Cup this equivalent match was against Jamaica but despite scoring a goal they still lost the match. Tunisia should be even more tough than the team from the West Indies.

Belgium v Russia: There is a history between these two nations in the finals, albeit the Russians playing as the USSR. The sides played three times between 1970 and 1986, the USSR winning 4-1 and 1-0 in 1970 and 1982 respectively before the Belgium side took their revenge with a 4-3 win after extra time in round two of the 1986 tournament. This should be a play off for top spot thereby avoiding a probable match against Brazil in the next round.



JAPAN



Not much is expected of the hosts and certainly the hosts won't win it like France did on their home soil in 1998. Japan will look for round 2 qualification but will probably have to suffice in picking up their first point in the finals.

Japan

Achievements in Major Competitions

- Asian Cup winners 2000, 1992
- FIFA Confederations Cup runners up 2001
- Fifa World Youth Championship runners up 1999
- Olympic Games Bronze medalists 1968

Qualified:

As co-hosts.

Schedule

Japan v Belgium- Saitama 18:50 AEST
Tuesday 4th June (SBS)

Japan v Russia - Yokohama 21:00 AEST
Sunday 9th June (SBS)

Japan v Tunisia - Osaka 16:00 AEST Friday



Japanese Squad.

14th June (SBS)

Finals record: Japan PLD 3 W 0 D 0 L 3 F1
A4 Total Points in group stages 0 at Half time
F0 A2) No penalty shootouts

Japan:

A Country Profile: Japan

Population: 126,182,077

Form of Govt: Constitutional Monarchy

Population density: 334 per square km

Life expectancy: 80.1

Infant Mortality: 4.1 (per 1000)

Language: Japanese

Literacy Rate: 99%

Religion: Shinto and Buddhist 84%

Economy: Industry 24%, Agriculture 7%,
Services 69%

Odds:

\$61 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



BELGIUM



Disappointed not to go through direct from the group stage of qualifiers the team must put that self doubt behind them as well as their performance in the last World Cup where they failed to win a match. Since 1982 this had been the first finals they had not at least made the second round. Belgium finished fourth in 1986 but that seems a long time ago now. Would be very disappointed not to make the second round though and as shown in 86 (and repeated by Croatia in 1998) anything can happen from there.

Belgium

Achievements in Major Competitions

- 4th 1986 FIFA World Cup
- 3rd UEFA European Championship 1972
- 2nd UEFA European Championship 1980
- Winner Olympic Games 1920

Qualified:

Winner European play off 2-0 over the Czech Republic. (1:0 and 0:1)

Second in European Group 6 Pld 8 W 5 D2 L 1 F 25
A 6 Pts 17 (against Croatia (1st), Scotland, Latvia and San Marino.)

Schedule:

Belgium v Japan- Saitama 18:50 AEST Tuesday 4th



Belgian Squad.

June (SBS))

Belgium v Tunisia - Oita 18:50 AEST Monday 10th
June (SBS)

Belgium v Russia - Shizuoka 18:50 AEST Friday 14th
June (SBS – delayed telecast)

Finals record:

Belgium PLD 32 W10 D6 L16 F40 A56

Total Points in group stages: 24

(at half time F 18 A 25) Penalty shoot outs: F 5 A 4.

A Country Profile: Kingdom of Belgium

Population: 10,182,034

Form of Govt: Federal Constitutional Monarchy

Population density: 333.7 per square km

Life expectancy: 77.5

Infant Mortality: 6.2 (per 1000)

Language: French, Dutch, German

Literacy Rate: 99%

Religion: Roman Catholic 75%

Economy: Industry 20%, Agriculture 3%, Services
77%

Odds:

\$81 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



RUSSIA



The Russians failed to qualify last time around which was a shock to this one time giant. They still have failed to win this trophy and it would be a major surprise if they did this time around. However the draw has been kind to them and they should go a fair way down the road to glory in 2002.

Achievements in Major Competitions

- Quarter-final 1958 FIFA World Cup
- Quarter-final 1962 FIFA World Cup
- 4th 1966 FIFA World Cup
- Quarter-final 1970 FIFA World Cup
- Champion UEFA European Championship 1960
- 2nd UEFA European Championship 1964
- 4th UEFA European Championship 1968
- 2nd UEFA European Championship 1972
- 2nd UEFA European Championship 1988
- Champion Olympic Games 1956
- Champion Olympic Games 1988

Qualified:

Winners European Group 1: PLD 10 W 7 D 2 L 1 F 18 A 5 Pts 23 (against Slovenia, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, and Luxembourg.)

Schedule:



Russian Squad

Russia v Tunisia - Kobe 16:00 AEST Wednesday 5th June (SBS)

Russia v Japan - Yokohama 21:00 AEST Sunday 9th June (SBS)

Russia v Belgium - Shizuoka 18:50 AEST Friday 14th June (SBS - delayed telecast)

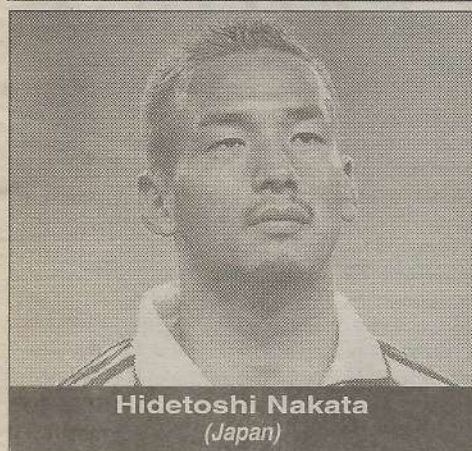
Finals record:

Russia PLD 34 W16 D6 L12 F61 A42 Total Points in group stages: 31 (at half time F 25 A 12) No penalty shootouts

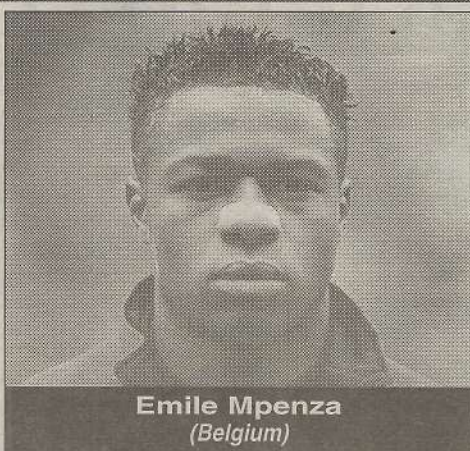
A Country Profile: Russian Federation

Population: 146,393,569
Form of Govt: Federal Republic
Population density: 8.6 per square km
Life expectancy: 65.1
Infant Mortality: 23 (per 1000)
Language: Russian
Literacy Rate: 98.7%
Religion: Russian Orthodox 27%
Economy: Industry 27%, Agriculture 15%, Services 47%, education and culture 11%

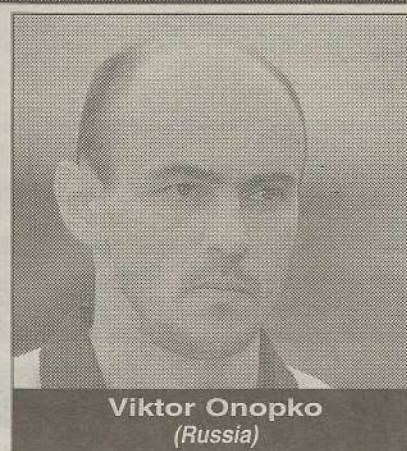
Odds: \$61 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



Hidetoshi Nakata
(Japan)



Emile Mpenza
(Belgium)



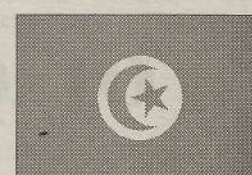
Viktor Onopko
(Russia)



Adel Selimi
(Tunisia)



TUNISIA



Appearing for the third time not too much is expected of Tunisia. In France they did well against the English and Argentinians without reward before gaining a 1-1 draw with Romania. In 1978 they had had a 0-0 draw with West Germany but losing to Poland. All this after their first match in the World Cup finals had seen them do so well in defeating Mexico 3-1 after being 0-1 down at half time.

If they do grab a point off a European nation this time around as well it could cost Russia or Belgium a place in the second round.

Achievements in Major Competitions

- Qualified 1962, 3, 5, 78, 82, 94, 96, 98, 2000, 2002 African Nations Cup Finals

Qualified:

African Group D Pld 8 W 6 D 2 L 0 F 23 A 4 Pts 20 (against Ivory Coast, Congo DR, Madagascar, and Congo.)

Schedule:

Tunisia v Russia - Kobe - 16:00 AEST -



Tunisian Squad

Wednesday 5th June (SBS)

Tunisia v Belgium - Oita 18:50 AEST Monday 10th June (SBS)

Tunisia v Japan - Osaka 16:00 AEST Friday 14th June (SBS)

Finals record:

Tunisia PLD 6 W1 D2 L3 F4 A6 Total Points in group stages: 4 (HT F1 A3) No penalty shootouts

A Country Profile: Republic of Tunisia

Population: 9,513,603
Form of Govt: Republic
Population density: 58.5 per square km
Life expectancy: 73.4
Infant Mortality: 31.4 (per 1000)
Language: Arabic
Literacy Rate: 62.5%
Religion: Muslim 98%
Economy: Industry 16%, Agriculture 22%, Services 62%

Odds: \$151 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



WORLD CUP NEWS



THIRTY-TWO WORLD CUP FINALISTS IN WORLD TOP FIFTY

World champions France have kept their place at the top of the FIFA world ranking's list in which all of the 32 finalists now feature in the top fifty after China edged into 50th place.

Brazil are equal second with

Argentina in the last list to be published before the World Cup finals hosted by Japan and South Korea get under way on May 31. Ironically three of the top ten nations failed to make it to the World Cup finals - Colombia in fourth, the Netherlands in 9th and Yugoslavia in 10th spot.

Cameroon, in 17th place, Turkey in 22nd and Senegal, 42nd, have all reached their best ever placing's since the introduction of ranking's while the Republic of Ireland and Slovenia registered the best moves, both up three places.

FIFA RANKINGS:	PTS		
1. France	802	26. Honduras	647
2. Brazil	784	27. Nigeria	644
3. Argentina	784	28. Russia	644
4. Colombia	728	29. Costa Rica	643
5. Portugal	726	30. Tunisia	635
6. Italy	717	29. Iran	635
7. Mexico	716	32. Japan	634
8. Spain	713	33. Norway	631
9. Netherlands	703	34. Saudi Arabia	627
10. Yugoslavia	702	35. Ecuador	624
11. Germany	695	36. Trinidad/Tobago	624
12. England	694	37. South Africa	627
13. United States	690	38. Poland	615
14. Romania	675	39. Morocco	612
15. Czech Republic	674	40. South Korea	603
16. Republic of Ireland	674	41. Finland	600
17. Cameroon	672	42. Senegal	599
18. Paraguay	671	43. Egypt	598
19. Sweden	665	44. Ukraine	593
20. Denmark	657	45. Chile	590
21. Croatia	655	46. Ivory Coast	580
22. Turkey	654	47. Peru	578
23. Belgium	653	48. Australia	575
24. Uruguay	652	49. Slovakia	574
25. Slovenia	649	50. China	566

Totti on target for World Cup opener

Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni is confident Roma star Francesco Totti will be fit for the World Cup opener against Ecuador on June 3.

Totti has been struggling with a thigh injury and missed most of Roma's Scudetto run-in but Trapattoni said "I don't know whether he [Totti] will start or only play the second half in our friendly against the Czech Republic on Saturday but I am confident he will be ready for our game against Ecuador.

"It depends on the player's physical situation, how the training sessions go and so on. I can't wait for anyone to get fit, I have to count on players how are at their best."

The Italy coach will also have to decide who will partner Christian Vieri up front with Del Piero, Vincenzo

Montella, Marco Delvecchio and Filippo Inzaghi all certain



Francesco Totti: Italy's new number 10.

to play at one stage against the Czechs.

But Trapattoni added that he would not reveal all his secrets on Saturday. He said: "It is not going to be the Italy that we will see in the World Cup.

"And I have to say that I am not listening to journalists saying that Del Piero and Totti can't play together because they are the same people who said they couldn't play together a couple of months ago."

The AS Roma star has also grabbed headlines after claiming the prestigious number 10 jersey. Juventus star Alessandro Del Piero wore the coveted jersey in previous years for the Auzzuri, however due to Totti's rise to fame, Trapattoni felt he was the main man to lead the Italian side to glory.

Veron blasts English critics

Juan Sebastian Veron said he believed Argentina's upcoming World Cup clash with England had fuelled press criticism of him during a difficult first season with Manchester United.

Veron compared his ordeal to that of England's Swedish coach Sven-Goran Eriksson who has recently faced reports about alleged sex romps with Anglo-Swedish TV presenter Ulrika Jonsson.

Speaking at Lazio's Formello training base where Argentina are preparing for the World Cup Veron said he had no doubts about his ability.

"We all know well how I am," said Veron who was revered by Lazio fans for his part in the 1999-2000 Scudetto-winning season. "This all started up when the (World Cup) draw was made, considering that I am Argentinian."

Argentina are drawn with England, Nigeria and Sweden in the

World Cup 'group of death'. And the midfielder said he believed that is why Swede Eriksson has also been through the mill.

"Eriksson knows what it is like - look what's happened to him lately," said Veron. "But it's not going to affect me as far as the continuation of my career in England is concerned."

Veron said he hoped England star David Beckham would be fit for the World Cup despite an apparent inability for the two to flourish together for Manchester United.

"I really hope he will be playing against us," said Veron. "But obviously I hope he is not on form because he is an immense talent."

"Our's is a group of iron," said Veron. "That's true but it can also serve to motivate us."

Asked if Argentina were favourites Veron said: "We must not think about that. Our objective is to win but it won't be easy because

there are great teams like Italy, France and Brazil and if we want to lift that trophy we will have to meet them all."



Juan Sebastian Veron: Argentine star has lashed out at the English media.

BAGGIO LOCKED OUT

The World Cup dream of Roberto Baggio is well and truly dead after Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni said, "Today I hope to close the debate on Baggio."

The Azzurri coach left the Brescia veteran out of his 23-man squad announced last week but the debate surrounding Baggio's omission continues.

Trapattoni now wants to close the book on the Baggio saga as his side begins its final preparation for the World Cup at the National Technical Centre near Florence.

In his first major press conference since his squad's selection, Trapattoni said in a statement, "Today I hope to close the debate on Baggio."

"I will take questions today but from tomorrow I will never speak about it again out of respect to the boys here today and also to him."

"We have pre-fixed an objective and that must occupy all our attention."

Inevitably, the majority of the questions from the press were about Baggio but Trapattoni stuck to his guns and reiterated his previous comments.

"He did not have time to get back in condition again after his

injury," said Trap who ignored a vast media campaign to pick the veteran of the past three World Cups.

"I was thinking of him back in October and November."

"I feel for him but I also feel for (Massimo) Ambrosini, (Marco) Di Vaio and the Roma goalkeeper (Francesco Antonioli).

"I wanted to keep the group of players who helped us qualify together."

"A few years ago he was an emblematic figure - like Ronaldo for Brazil."

"It displeases me having to make decisions like that but it is the job of the coach."

Trapattoni kept his cards close to his chest when asked about his World Cup predictions.

"There will be surprises. Nothing is certain," he said.

"Everyone will be tough to beat and we have to respect each team."

Despite having a star-studded squad at his disposal, Trapattoni was concerned with the team's preparation.

"We have very little time," said the coach.

"Thank goodness there was not a play-off for the title otherwise we would only have got together 10 days before the start (of the World

Cup)."

The Azzurri travels to Prague on Friday for Saturday's friendly with the Czech Republic before it holds a public training session at Rome's Stadio Flaminio on May 21.

The Italians are drawn in Group G along with Croatia, Mexico and Ecuador and are third favourites for the tournament with the bookies.



Roberto Baggio: The famous 'pony-tail' star will unfortunately not take part in this year's World Cup with Italy.

RIVALDO FEARS EASE

Brazilian star Rivaldo has rejected talk that his troublesome knees will hamper his World Cup campaign.

After joining the majority of his teammates at Brazil's pre-World Cup training camp in Barcelona, the former World Player of the Year said, "I'm fit and feel in good shape."

"I'm ready to start training."

Rivaldo's fitness has been the subject of intense media speculation in recent months with the midfielder ace spending a fair chunk of the season nursing injuries to both knees.

Brazilian team officials last week

insisted the playmaker was fit for the World Cup, after he was named in Luiz Felipe Scolari's 23-man squad.

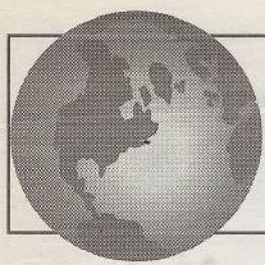
Brazil will face a Catalonia XI on Saturday at the Nou Camp but it is not yet known if Rivaldo will take part.

With the majority of the Brazilian squad settling into the team hotel in Barcelona, Scolari put his charges through a two-and-a-half hour run-out with Inter striker Ronaldo among them.

Also already in camp are AS Roma stars Cafu and Emerson while Bayer Leverkusen defender Lucio

and Roberto Carlos of Real Madrid will link up with the party following the Champions League final in Glasgow.

Parma's Junior and AC Milan's Roque Junior are also due to arrive in Catalunya soon while keeper Dida and midfielder Vampeta, who are playing for Corinthians in the Brazil Cup final, will arrive on Thursday along with Gremio keeper Anderson Polga and striker Luizao, who are tied up in Libertadores Cup quarter-final action.



MADRID MAGIC AS SPANIARDS CLAIM CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TITLE



Real Madrid **2**
(Raul 8th, Zidane 45th)



Bayer Leverkusen **1**
(Lucio 14th)

Zinedine Zidane scored one of the greatest goals seen in a major European final to win the Champions' League for Real Madrid on Wednesday night.

The Frenchman, twice a loser in Champions' League finals with Juventus, volleyed into the top corner at the end of a first half when his side had been outplayed.



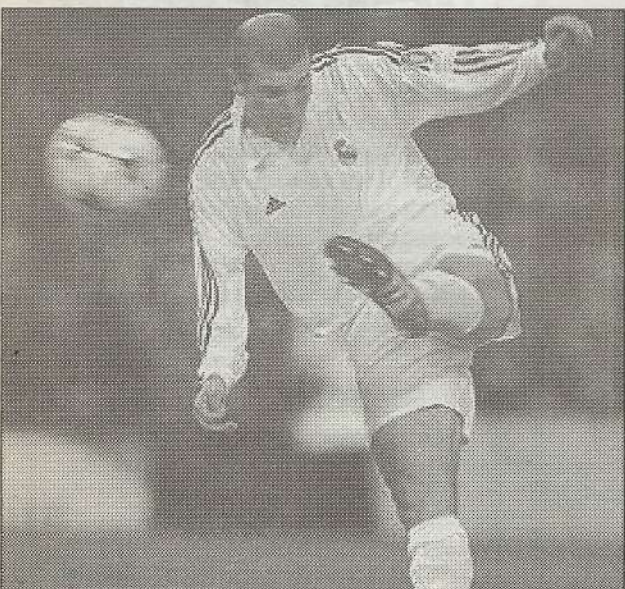
Luis Figo: The Portuguese international poised for yet another Real attack.

Few could begrudge the Spaniards victory by the end, though, after a dominant second-half display when Leverkusen never generated the momentum which has become their hallmark, until a late rally gave Real plenty of scares.

Leverkusen defender Lucio cancelled out Raul's early goal with a 14th-minute header as this Glasgow encounter got off to a blistering start.

The big Brazilian had been culpable moments earlier when Raul waltzed on to a long throw from Roberto Carlos and scuffed the ball past ponderous goalkeeper Hans-Jorg Butt.

But he was quick enough when Bernd Schneider whipped in a cross from the left at the other end and planted his header firmly past Cesar.



Zinedine Zidane: The French international scored one of the greatest goals in Champions League history.

Real had dominated possession in the early stages, but with Leverkusen biting into their tackles and Michael Ballack orchestrating from the centre, the Germans did not look overawed.



Real Madrid: Champions League winners celebrate.

And they should have gone in front on 21 minutes when a lofted ball from the left was missed by Santiago Solari, only for the clean through Thomas Brdaric to shoot nervily at Cesar.

Leverkusen continued to press, in between some pretty passing patterns from the favourites, and Boris Zivkovic had a goal-bound shot charged down on the six-yard line after Real again gave the ball away on 26 minutes.

Ballack was everywhere - breaking up Real attacks, twisting past challenges - while the Madrid duo of Zidane and Luis Figo, obviously unfit, struggled to impose themselves.

The Bayern Munich-bound midfielder should have made it 2-1 on 35 minutes when Oliver Neuville laid the ball into his path on the edge of the area, only to pull wastefully wide of the left



All smiles as Fernando Hierro and Raul hoist the Champions League trophy in Glasgow.

post.

Leverkusen paid for their missed chances as the interval loomed when Roberto Carlos finally found the confidence to surge forward. His cross-looped into the air and Zidane waited for the ball to drop before smashing gloriously past Butt.

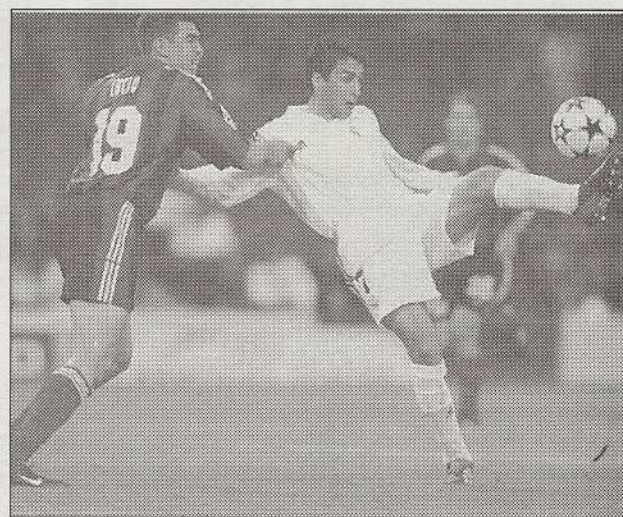
The first ten minutes of the second half were scrappier than

anything seen before the break.

But Real showed signs of improvement as the hour approached and Butt punched to safety, as Fernando Morientes looked to head home a left-wing cross.

Zidane also opened his box of tricks, lifted by his decisive intervention at the end of the opening period, before the lacklustre Figo was replaced by Steve McManaman and injured Real goalkeeper Cesar gave way to Iker Casillas.

The Germans had lost all confidence and their opponents enjoyed long spells of keep-ball, with McManaman adding



Spanish sensation Raul tangles with Bayer's Lucio in Last Wednesday's Champions League final.

composure on the right of midfield and Solari coming more into the game when Real counter-attacked.

McManaman darted down the wing on 81 minutes and crossed low towards Raul, who just failed to make contact as the ball was clumsily stabbed to safety.

Then Morientes was close on 82 minutes, turning Lucio in the box but falling as he hit his shot, which sailed wide of the left post.

Leverkusen finally carved out a chance when a cross from wide on the left dropped on to Dimitar Berbatov's head, only for the substitute to nod lazily over the bar.

The chance offered hope to the underdogs, though, and they poured forward with vigour in the closing stages.

Goalkeeper Butt came up for a free-kick as seven injury-time minutes ticked down and made solid contact with Schneider's centre, only to see his effort fly a yard wide.

Then Yildiray Basturk had an angled shot repelled by Casillas, before Berbatov saw two attempts cleared off the line, the second a powerful header which hit the Real keeper's legs in the dying seconds of an enthralling contest.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN:

Butt, Zivkovic, Lucio (Babic 90), Placente, Basturk, Ballack, Schneider, Sebescen (Kirsten 65), Ramelow, Brdaric (Berbatov 38), Neuville

REAL MADRID:

Cesar (Casillas 68), Hierro, Salgado, Roberto Carlos, Helguera, Zidane, Figo (McManaman 61), Makelele (Flavio 73), Solari, Morientes, Raul

BOOKED:

Salgado, Roberto Carlos (Real)

REFEREE:

Urs Meier (Switzerland)

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

After Round 26	TOTAL							PTS	HOME							AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	BYE	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	
PERTH GLORY	24	16	7	1	2	52	23	55	12	9	3	0	25	9		12	7	4	1	27	14	
NEWCASTLE UNITED	24	10	12	2	2	33	21	42	12	7	5	0	17	6		12	3	7	2	16	15	
OLYMPIC SHARKS	24	12	4	8	2	37	24	40	12	7	4	1	21	8		12	5	0	7	16	14	
BRISBANE STRIKERS	24	10	7	7	2	40	33	37	12	6	3	3	21	14		12	4	6	4	19	19	
SOUTH MELBOURNE	24	10	6	8	2	30	22	36	13	6	2	5	17	14		11	4	4	3	13	7	
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	24	11	3	10	2	41	40	36	13	6	3	4	21	20		11	5	0	6	20	20	
PARRAMATTA POWER	24	10	4	10	2	34	30	34	13	7	1	5	19	14		11	3	3	5	15	16	
NORTHERN SPIRIT	24	9	7	8	2	36	39	34	12	6	2	4	19	19		12	3	5	4	17	20	
MARCONI STALLIONS	24	8	6	10	2	32	36	30	12	6	3	3	21	17		12	2	3	7	11	19	
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	24	6	7	11	2	28	43	25	10	3	1	7	11	19		13	3	4	6	16	24	
SYDNEY UNITED	24	6	6	12	2	27	37	24	12	1	5	6	13	22		12	6	1	5	17	15	
ADELAIDE CITY	24	4	8	12	2	27	34	20	12	3	5	4	18	19		12	1	3	8	9	20	
KINGZ FC	24	3	5	16	1	28	57	14	11	3	3	5	12	27		12	0	2	11	16	33	

SOUTH MELBOURNE

(C Boutsianis 41, 55, V Coveny 83)

MARCONI STALLIONS

(S Webb 86)

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium. **Crowd:** 9,063. **Referee:** M Shield.
Cautions: S Panopoulos (SM) 45, A Brosque (MS) 17, C Gibson (MS) 58, A Costanzo (MS) 81.

Teams: **SOUTH MELBOURNE:** Petkovic, Iosifidis, De Amicis, Durakovic, Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli (Bacak 74), Sekulovski (Lia 85), Murdocca, Kisorbo, Boutsianis (Sabljak 85).

MARCONI STALLIONS: Turnbull (Catlin 81), Beauchamp, Costanzo, Longo, Care, Tome, Webb, Bove (Radulovic 7) (Anabalon 68), Alfko, Brosque, Gibson.

PARRAMATTA POWER

(B Holman 16pen, D Brown 21, A Kwasnik 54)

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Venue: Parramatta Stadium. **Crowd:** 2,733. **Referee:** C. Diomis.
Cautions: D Barrett (PP) 32, R Vargas (MK) 45, I Jolic (MK) 73.

Teams: **PARRAMATTA POWER:** Reddy, Barrett, Langdon (Buonavoglia 82), Tobin, O'Sullivan, Brown, Holman, Elrich (Kwasnik 46), Vrkic, Eagleton (Thompson 60), Bennett.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: McGrath, Rajher, R Vargas, Marusic (Debec 78), Porter, Da Costa, Sulemani (Pelikan 60), Jolic, Piorkowski, Kiratzoglou (Ovcin 72), A Vargas.

BRISBANE STRIKERS

(K Trajanovski 19)

PERTH GLORY

(B Despotovski 37 pen)

Venue: Ballymore. **Crowd:** 4,508. **Referee:** M. Breeze.
Cautions: S Stefanutto (BS) 37.

Teams: **BRISBANE STRIKERS:** Kearton, Alagich, Stefanutto, McKain, McLaren (Grierson 64), Rech, Webber, Trajanovski, Carbone (Rose 80), McKay, Drake (Heath 70).

PERTH GLORY: Petkovic, Horsley, Deans, Maloney (Edwards 64), Despotovski, Garcia (Valle 86), Hassell (Naven 83), Junior, Mori, Pryce, Tarka.

OLYMPIC SHARKS

(A Milicic 19, 27, 57, 84, D Macallister 91)

KINGZ FC

(C Banks 39, A Vlahos 55)

Venue: Toyota Park. **Crowd:** 3,614. **Referee:** S. Micallef.
Cautions: W Srhoj (OS) 2, C Jackson (KFC) 8.

Teams: **OLYMPIC SHARKS:** Bolton, Laybutt (Owens 60), Kohler, Srhoj (Harris 60), Wilson, Pondeljak, Macallister, North, Milicic, Packer (Augerinos 78), Juric.

KINGZ FC: Theoklifos, Perry, Vlahos, Ngata (Osman 71), Campbell, Markovski (Urlovic 46), Burton, Hooker, Van Steeden (Wylie 61), Banks, Jackson.

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE

(A Vidmar 20)

SYDNEY UNITED

(B Santalab 14, M Jedinak 66)

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium. **Crowd:** 3,500. **Referee:** C. Zetter.
Cautions: A Kovacevic (ACF) 45, M Kemp (ACF) 61, A Goulding (ACF) 66, A Deur (SU) 29, C Cevenini (SU) 45.
Red Cards: B Santalab (SU) 75.

Teams: **ADELAIDE CITY FORCE:** Cagalj, Kemp, Fyfe, Kovacevic, Pantelis, Vidmar, Tunbridge (Saraceno 69), Rees, Goulding (Pellegrino 87), Karlovic, Budin.

SYDNEY UNITED: Knezevic, Savoca, Santalab, Deur (Cunico 85), Talevski, Menapi, Bilokapic, Watkins, Jedinak, Bosnar, Cevenini (Sinozic 46).

NORTHERN SPIRIT

(S Dobbie 15, A Griffiths 32, P Cardozo 45, 89, S Thomas 69)

WOLLONGONG WOLVES

(S Young 18, P Reid 33)

Venue: North Sydney Oval. **Crowd:** 2,925. **Referee:** B. Hugo.
Cautions: G Souris (WW) 49.

Teams: **NORTHERN SPIRIT:** Rex, Bell, Spencer, Trajkovski (McDermott 85), Thomas (Hutchinson 85), Foster, Cardozo, Stergiopoulos, Cartwright, Dobbie, A Griffiths (R Griffiths 90).

WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Anastasiadis (Pasfield 9), Souris (Huxley 46), Ceccoli, Stanton, Reid, Young, Sekulovski (Castro 46), Anthopoulos, Blake, Wells, Sharland.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Con Boutsianis: It was the Con Boutsianis show last Friday in Souths all-important clash with Marconi which ended 3-1. The left-footed star bagged a brace in sheer style, the first a rocket of a shot while the second was scored direct from a corner kick. His two goals sent South Melbourne through to the Semi-Finals of the National League, something critics found hard to believe at the start of the competition - Watch Out Beckham. Boutsianis is on the loose!

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
MORI Damian	Perth Glory	17
MILICIC Ante	Olympic Sharks	15
CARDOZO Pablo	Northern Spirit	14
FOSTER Paul	Brisbane Strikers	13
DESPOTOVSKI Bobby	Perth Glory	12
PORTER Joel	Melbourne Knights	11
BROWNLIE Royce	Marconi	11
DA COSTA Toto	Melbourne Knights	11
GRIFFITHS Joel	Newcastle	10

SUNDAY APRIL 14

ELIMINATION FINAL 1ST LEG

South Melbourne (5) — Brisbane Strikers (4),
Bob Jane Stadium — 3.00PM

Melbourne Knights (6) — Olympic Sharks (3),
Knights Stadium — 6.00PM

BYE - NEWCASTLE UNITED